6 SCORCHING POSTERS

ALTER BRIDGE

EXCLUSIVE! THE COMEBACK INTERVIEW!

KERRANG!

BIFFY CLYRO

THE ULTIMATE REVIEW!

GOJIRA

LIFE AFTER DEATH

SUMMER ROCKS!

FVK

R.I.P.

WHAT THEY MEANT TO YOU

VANS WARPED TOUR '16

ACCESS-ALL-AREAS AT WITH KELLIN AND HIS CREW!

STARRING

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◆WITH CONFIDENCE ◆
◆WATERPARKS... & ZILLIONS MORE

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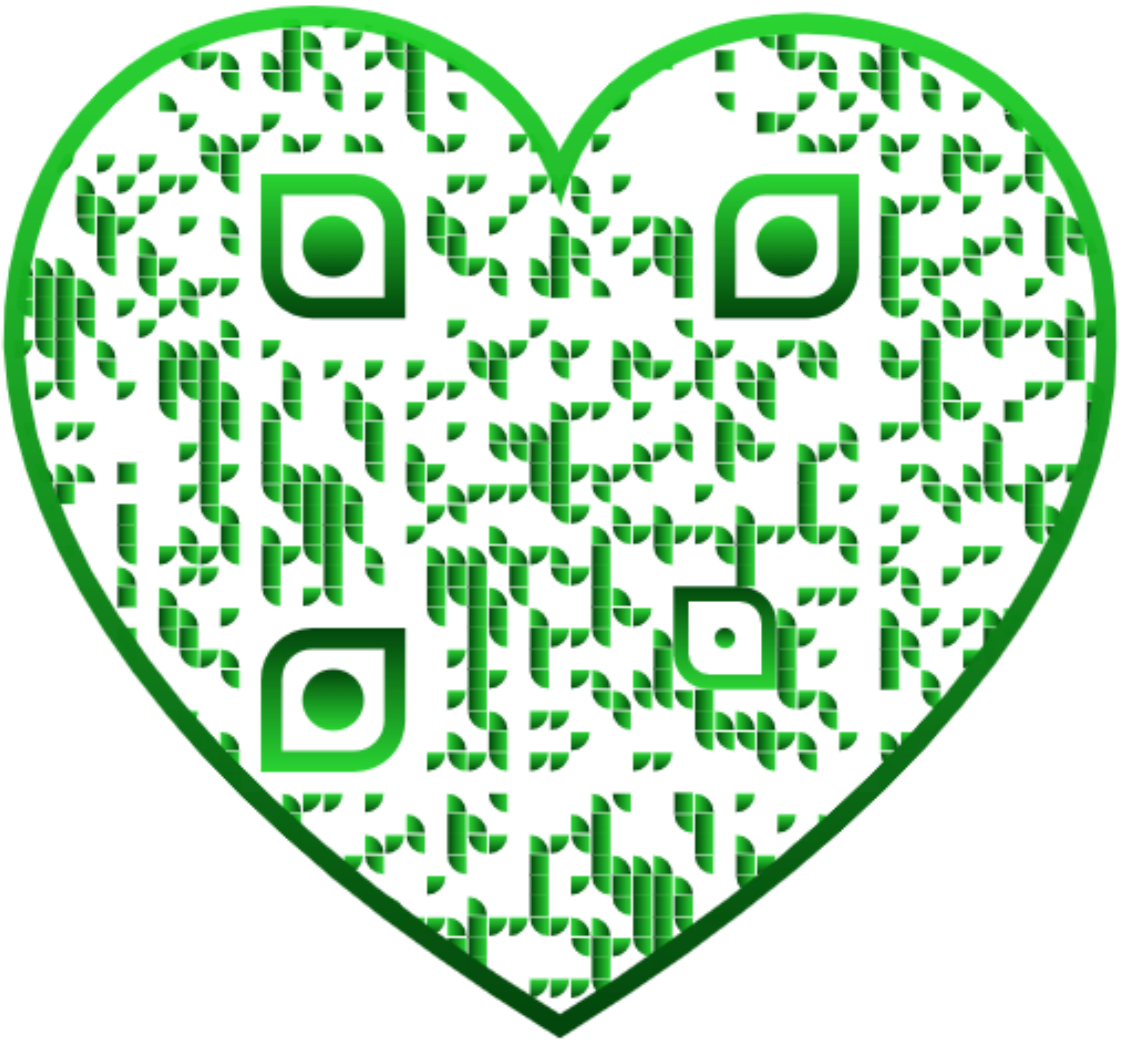

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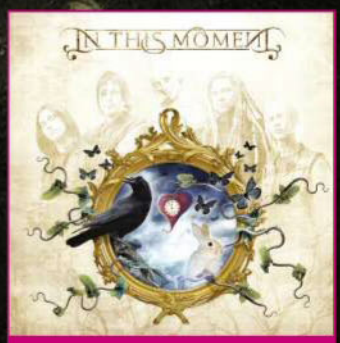

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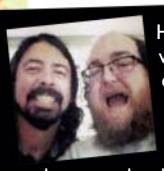


HELLO, READERS, and welcome to this week's issue of Kerrang!. Y'know, it's no exaggeration to say that the world feels like a stinking cesspit right now – so much hate, so much violence. And while we at Kerrang! believe that it's important not to bury your head in the sand, we did decide that this week we'd hop on a plane and head to our happy place, or Warped Tour to give it another name, to recharge, refuel, and remind ourselves that rock is a principal reason to keep on at it. Before I go, I'd like to dedicate this entire issue to the legend that is Kerrang! Picture Editor Scarlet Borg, who's leaving Kerrang! after 28 years. Charge your glasses for a true K! Legend…

James

NEWS

ON THE COVER: The mighty **Alter Bridge** return **(p4)**! Frontman Myles Kennedy gives us the lowdown on their highly-anticipated new album. Elsewhere, we say goodbye to **FVK (p8)**, welcome back **Lower Than Atlantis (p9)** and explore mindfulness with **Trivium**'s Matt Heafy **(p10)**.

FEATURES

ON THE COVER: Corrr, this summer's been a bit shit, hasn't it? Not in the States, though, where we jump onboard the Vans Warped Tour with **Tonight Alive**, **SWS**, **Waterparks**, **Cane Hill** and **With Confidence (p16)** to catch some rays with the hottest bands in rock! On top of that, K! previews the best of the rest in summer tours **(p24)**, find out how grief shaped **Gojira**'s stunning new album **(p38)** and meet one of 2016's most fearsome bands, **Nails (p42)**.

LIVES

Guns N' Roses alert! This thing's real, they're on tour, and Axl and co stormed Chicago last week **(p46)**. PLEASE COME TO THE UK! We also hopped on a plane to Belgium to watch **The Struts**, **Rammstein**, **Red Hot Chili Peppers** and more at **Rock Werchter (p48)**. Busy week.

REVIEWS

ON THE COVER: THE **BIFFY** ALBUM IS FINALLY HERE **(p50)**! So, we've spent every waking moment listening to that. Apart from when we were listening to Frank Iero's **Death Spells (p51)**.

GIGS

Black Peaks get set to storm the UK **(p56)**, while **Tim Perry** takes us inside **Brixton**'s **Windmill (p58)**…

COVER PHOTO: LINDSEY BYRNES

GUNS N' ROSES p46

Leg-stretching after that recent broken foot proved to be a very painful idea for Axl…

p29

HOT-AS-HELL POSTERS!

Warm your walls up, too, with superstar photographer Lindsey Byrnes' poster special – featuring ADTR, twenty one pilots, All Time Low and more. Awwww yeeeeeeah.

NEWS

THE BIG STORY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER

"WE'RE TRYING THINGS WE HAVEN'T DONE IN THE PAST!"

MYLES KENNEDY

Mark Tremonti's ol' "superglue on fret 12" prank always worked on Myles

EXCLUSIVE

ALTER BRIDGE ROAR BACK!

MYLES KENNEDY SPEAKS EXCLUSIVELY TO K! ABOUT **ALTER BRIDGE**'S EAGERLY-ANTICIPATED FIFTH ALBUM AND THEIR BIGGEST TOUR TO DATE… OH, AND WE'RE REVEALING THE NAME AND ARTWORK, TOO!

ROCK TITANS Alter Bridge recently announced that their eagerly-anticipated fifth album would be released in October, via Napalm Records. Beyond that and the fact that they would once again be working with producer and "unofficial fifth band member" Michael 'Elvis' Baskette, who's worked with the band since 2007's Blackbird, details about the quartet's latest offering have been shrouded in mystery – until now.

Taking a break from rehearsals for their forthcoming U.S. tour, singer-guitarist Myles Kennedy speaks exclusively to K! about what we can expect from their follow up to 2013's 5K-rated Fortress – including the all-important album name reveal! And that's not to mention their biggest UK tour yet, and whether they're currently eyeing up a headline slot at Download…

HI, MYLES! RIGHT, BRING US UP TO SPEED – WHAT ARE YOU UP TO RIGHT NOW?

"We have a summer tour booked here in the States for about seven weeks, so we're just trying to get ready for that. We're also having a listening party where we've got a bunch of fans coming in to listen to the record, after that we're going to play about an hour's worth of material. So, you know, we're just dusting off the cobwebs and getting back in the swing of things as Alter Bridge."

A LISTENING PARTY WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE ALBUM IS TOTALLY DONE…

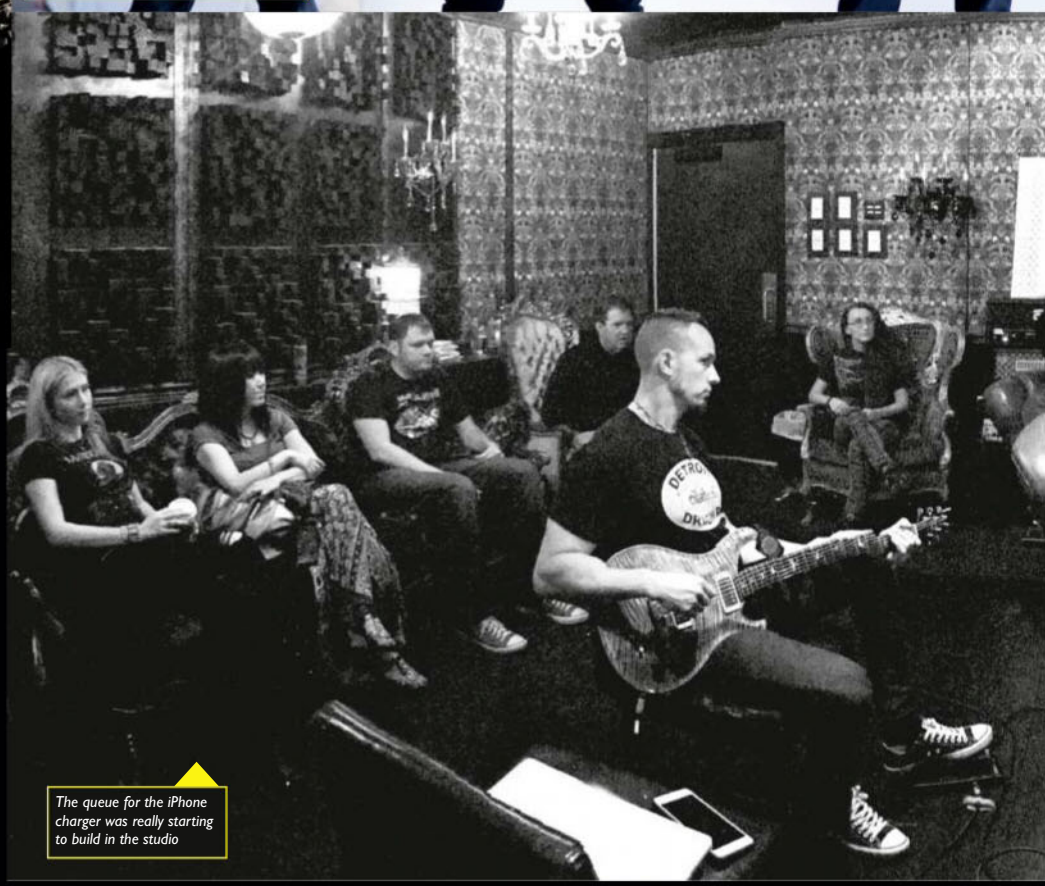
"It is *all* done, man. Finishing a record is similar to that feeling when you're at school and you finish that big term paper that's been staring you down for the entire semester. Once it's complete, it's a very good feeling – so to get to play it for the

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE PHOTOS: ASHLEY MAILE/CHUCK BRUECKMANN

THE BIG STORY

Alter Bridge (L – R): Scott Phillips, Myles Kennedy, Mark Tremonti and Brian Marshall

Myles: right back hat it again



The queue for the iPhone charger was really starting to build in the studio

diehard fans is exciting, but it's also a little nerve-wracking, because you hope they like it because you've worked so diligently on it."

SO, CAN YOU TELL US THE ALBUM TITLE?

"I think I can… I don't know if I'll get in trouble, but the record is called The Last Hero."

SO, WHAT'S THE MEANING BEHIND THE NAME – IS IT TAKEN FROM A SONG ON THE ALBUM?

"Yeah, there is a title-track which, I believe, is the very last track on the record. There's kind of a common theme that runs throughout a pretty decent portion of the record, which dives into the concept of heroes: the lack of heroes nowadays; the need for heroes and what we do to heroes in the public eye – how we tend to build them up and tear them down. Then there are other songs that are tributes to the everyday heroes, like people who serve their country. It really dives deep into that world, which I have always been intrigued with since I was a kid; it's a big part of being human to have those key figures that help us feel safe and guided."

SINCE YOU RELEASED FORTRESS, A LOT OF TRAGIC EVENTS HAVE HAPPENED IN THE WORLD. HOW MUCH OF THAT HAS BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE ALBUM?

"Oh, you definitely absorb those things. It's hard not to, especially with the media now; you're always receiving this information and it feeds the creative process. It's tough not to get disillusioned and concerned about the future at the rate we're going. It all seems rather complicated. Here in the States, it's an election year, so people are out campaigning and it seems like people are fighting a little bit dirty, which is frankly embarrassing. A lot of that played a part in how these songs evolved lyrically."

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SOME OF THE OTHER SONGS ON THE RECORD?

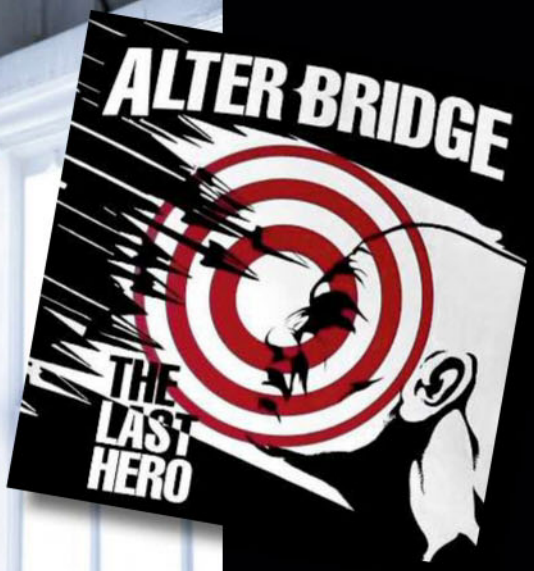
"Sure! Based on what we were just saying about the frustrations with the way things have gone with the current election cycle, the very first song is called Show Me A Leader. It's a reflection on how a lot of people are feeling here; day-to-day you talk to people and you gauge the environment. The Writing On The Wall is the second track and describes the frustration with a lot of the global-warming naysayers – people who say there's nothing happening. This is a highly-charged subject here – I don't know how it is in the UK. The song touches on that and the question of, 'How can you put your head in the sand like an ostrich and not pay attention to what's going on?'"

IS IT TURBULENT MUSICALLY, TOO?

"When we were making the record, Elvis [producer Michael 'Elvis' Baskette], who we've worked with again on this record, said, 'The interesting thing about this record is that there are elements from a lot of the previous ones.' So, it's almost this combination of those – in conjunction with trying to push things a little further, and do a few things we haven't done in the past, musically. We're hoping there will be a little something for everybody!"

WHAT IS IT ABOUT ELVIS THAT KEEPS YOU WORKING WITH HIM?

"He has a really great song sense and knows how to get the best out of us. The most important thing he brings is that he's the great decider and a really great filter. Mark [Tremonti, Alter Bridge guitarist] and I are very creative people and have a lot of ideas. Elvis can listen to those ideas and decide what makes the cut. He's not afraid to speak his mind. All he cares about is making the best record possible."



SPEAKING OF MARK – HE'S BEEN VERY PROLIFIC OF LATE, RELEASING TWO SOLO RECORDS IN 12 MONTHS. HOW HAS HE NOT RUN OUT OF RIFFS?

"Mark has got a real gift when it comes to riffs. He can just spit them out very easily – or at least he makes it look easy. I think part of that has to do with the fact that things are never dormant with him – he's always working at them, which is a mentality we both subscribe to. That's what I was doing when I was touring with Slash for the last few years. I'd be back in a hotel room, stockpiling riffs and melodies."

"THE RECORD IS CALLED THE LAST HERO…"

MYLES KENNEDY

WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE WE LAST SAW YOU?

"I've been spending a lot of time finishing the solo record that I started many years ago, so for the last few weeks I've been online working on the mixes for that, so that's definitely kept me busy."

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO FINALLY HEAR THIS LONG-AWAITED SOLO RECORD, THEN?

"I think it's too early to say; I just wanted to get it done. I'm extremely fortunate to get to tour with Slash and Alter Bridge, and so I've always thought that when there's a window where it would be appropriate to put that out and do a little bit of touring, I'd do that – but right now it's still too early to tell."

GIVEN YOUR IMPRESSIVE CONTACTS, CAN WE EXPECT GUEST APPEARANCES ON THIS SOLO RECORD?

"There are no guests on the Alter Bridge record. As far as the solo record goes, I'm going to have to keep that top-secret for the time being!"

SPOILSPORT! SO, ALTER BRIDGE HAVE ALSO ANNOUNCED A HUGE TOUR, INCLUDING A SHOW AT THE O2 ARENA. HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT PLAYING THE BIGGEST TOUR OF YOUR LIFE?

"(*Laughs*) Wow! I never thought about it that way, but when you put it in those terms I'm excited. It certainly makes you very aware that you've got to really bring your A-game, which we try to do regardless of whether we're playing The O2 or playing a small club – that's just how we're hard-wired. That being said, it's hard to believe… (*Pause*) It's like when we played Wembley the first time… (*Pause*) Fuck, we're playing The O2! It's crazy! After we've been slugging it out for the last 12 years – it's the reality, so… I'm kind of speechless, as you can tell."

ARE YOU CONSCIOUSLY WRITING SONGS TO FILL THOSE BIGGER SPACES NOW, TOO – IS THIS ALTER BRIDGE'S ARENA RECORD?

"That never comes into play – at least not for me. You're never thinking, 'We need something that's going to hit this niche,' or, 'We need something that's going to sound really great in this venue.' It's more, 'What's going to get us off?' and, 'What do you want to be part of your legacy?' When you're long gone and somebody finds some MP3 someday, that's what it's about. As the years go on, that becomes more and more important for me."

YOUR TOUR FEATURES AN AMAZING SUPPORT BILL, INCLUDING VOLBEAT AND GOJIRA – ARE THEY THERE TO PUSH YOU TO BE EVEN BETTER?

"I think a lot of it is asking, 'Who are we fans of?' It's one of those things where, when you're touring all the time, you want to have a band out with you that you enjoy hearing night after night. Mark and I have both professed our love and respect for Gojira for a long time, so to have the opportunity to share the stage with them is fantastic."

FINALLY, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE WITH THIS NEXT CHAPTER FOR ALTER BRIDGE – ARE YOU GUNNING TO HEADLINE DOWNLOAD SOON?

"Wow! As far as thinking, 'I hope we get to play this venue,' or, 'I hope we get to headline this festival,' I don't really think in those terms. Hearing you mention Download makes me think it would be amazing, obviously. If that were to happen – that would probably be the biggest thing that we've ever had the opportunity to do. We were talking about legacies before, and that would certainly be an incredible thing to add to that legacy. Given where I initially set the bar as a kid playing guitar in his bedroom, it's far exceeded any of my wildest dreams!"

Alter Bridge hit the UK in Novembe
See the Gig Guide

THE FEED
THIS WEEK IN ROCK

WHAT FVK MEANT TO ME
ABII RICHARDSON
23, FROM MIDDLESBROUGH
"FVK has always been more than a band for me – they were like a second home. They were so different and interesting – it was love at first listen! I can't believe that I won't get to see them play again, or hear new music from them… I'm heartbroken."

WHAT FVK MEANT TO ME
MITCH WALTERS
13, FROM GLASGOW
"FVK were an amazing band, and they helped me through a lot. I remember hearing them and instantly falling in love. They were there for me; they were like brothers to me, so when they broke up, it hurt me a lot. I know their music will always live on in my heart."

WHAT FVK MEANT TO ME
HARLEY GODFRY
19, FROM WAKEFIELD
"I first got into FVK back in late-2010, at a time when I found myself feeling alone. When I came out as transgender, they were all so supportive and instantly began treating me like 'one of the guys'. Thanks to them, my confidence grew so much."

WHAT FVK MEANT TO ME
VICKI EVANS
16, FROM PONTEFRACT
"I got into FVK right at the start of 2012, when I was 12. After meeting them, I learned that they are genuine guys and that they always make time for their fans; they try their best to really form a personal bond with us and they do care about us."

WHAT FVK MEANT TO ME
EMILY HENNELL
17, FROM WOKINGHAM
"I first heard FVK when my boyfriend played their song Bleed 'Till Sunrise and I immediately fell in love with it. I owe a lot to them as they opened my eyes to a new style of music that has greatly influenced what I listen to now."

† RIP †

AS THE MUCH-LOVED FIVE-PIECE ANNOUNCE THEIR SPLIT FOLLOWING THE SHOCK DEPARTURE OF KIER KEMP, MEMBERS OF THEIR FANBASE TELL US JUST WHAT THEIR HEROES MEANT TO THEM…

FVK HAVE announced they're to split up, following the shock departure of co-vocalist Kier Kemp. In a statement released via their Facebook account on July 5, the band confirmed: "Last Friday [July 1], Kier announced that he was leaving FVK. This revelation was greeted with shock, disappointment and heartbreak, as we have given our lives to this band and the idea of giving up was completely alien to us.

"However, over the weekend, we've struggled to find the answers – and we've come to the conclusion that it would be wrong to continue without Kier."

Formed in their hometown of Beccles in Suffolk in 2008, the band – completed by co-vocalist Laurence Beveridge, guitarist Cyrus Barrone [Shane Sumner], bassist Drew Woolnough and drummer Luke 'Pilnahn' Illingworth – were originally named Fearless Vampire Killers after the 1967 horror-comedy directed by Roman Polanski. In their eight-year career, they released three albums (most recently last year's mini-album Bruises) and three EPs – and were part of the bill of the 2013 Kerrang! Tour, alongside Black Veil Brides, Chiodos and Tonight Alive.

The band's forthcoming show at Shield Fest in Bridgend on Sunday, July 17, will be going ahead without Kier, prompting Laurence to jokingly tweet that the set allows the band to finally be billed as 'Kierless Vampire Killers'. Sadly, all shows beyond that – including what would have been their first appearances at Reading and Leeds Festivals – have now been cancelled.

Also in the statement, the band confirmed their dedicated social network, The Obsidian Bond, would remain active as "a place for the open and creative minded" and "to maintain the community that acted as FVK's driving force". Many members of that community have already taken to Twitter to share their #FVKmemories in the wake of the news.

As their followers (The Lost Hearts) were always the lifeblood of everything FVK did, we thought we'd send them off with some words from the people that mattered to them the most – you guys, their fans…

For more on FVK's split, head over to **Kerrang.com**

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

THEY SAID WHAT?

"WHENEVER MY RT COUNT'S BELOW 1K I FEEL LIKE I'VE FAILED YOU"

ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW

RESTORING FORCE FAITH

Of Mice & Men's Austin Carlile has found God. "Trying to do things my own way completely left me stranded," he wrote on an Instagram post of his baptism pic. "His grace has been overwhelming." Tour with **Watain**'s not on the cards, then…

SAILING THE SEA-SICKNESS OF CHEESE

Primus bassist/eccentric chap **Les Claypool** has launched a new range of medicinal drinks called SeaPop, designed to "help tame the rough seas within". The bass lord was inspired to invent something to ease wooziness after injuring his ear while scuba-diving.

NEXT WAVE OF MUTILATION

There are those who will never accept a **Kim Deal**-less **Pixies**, but after the warm reception for 2014's post-Kim long-player **Indie Cindy**, the alt.rock legends have announced that they're returning with a new record, entitled **Head Carrier**. In other news, bassist Paz Lenchantin (formally of **A Perfect Circle** and **Zwan**) has been confirmed as a permanent member. "Paz is a joy to be around" says drummer David Lovering. "We're having more fun than we've ever had."

DAVE NAVARRO TO BE HONOURED

Jane's Addiction guitarist **Dave Navarro** is to become the first-ever male inductee into U.S. TV channel Investigation Discovery's Inspire A Difference awards, for his film **Mourning Son**. The documentary focuses on the murder of Dave's mother by an ex-boyfriend, and is a continuation of his work with anti-domestic violence groups. "It is my hope that Mourning Son is a way to shine a light on this horrible epidemic within our culture, so that we can all help end it," he commented.

ZAC TO THE FUTURE

It's the worst-kept secret in rock, but now it's officially been confirmed: **Zac Farro** is drumming in **Paramore** again. Speaking to Idobi as part of an interview concerning his HalfNoise project, Zac said: "They've asked me to play drums on their new album. So, [Hayley] put it on their Instagram and put it on their website. It's no joke." He then went on to say, "We've always been friends, and yeah, there was a little bit of weirdness 'cause I left the band for a few years, but all that stuff is not even there any more. There's no hard feelings and it's just been rad and fun." There's no confirmation yet as to the album's release date, but keep your eyes peeled here for more developments…

OH HELLO, MIKE DUCE!

WE CATCH UP WITH **LOWER THAN ATLANTIS'** FRONTMAN TO FIND OUT ALL ABOUT ALBUM FIVE…

HEY, MIKE – SO HOW ARE THE NEW SONGS COMING ALONG?

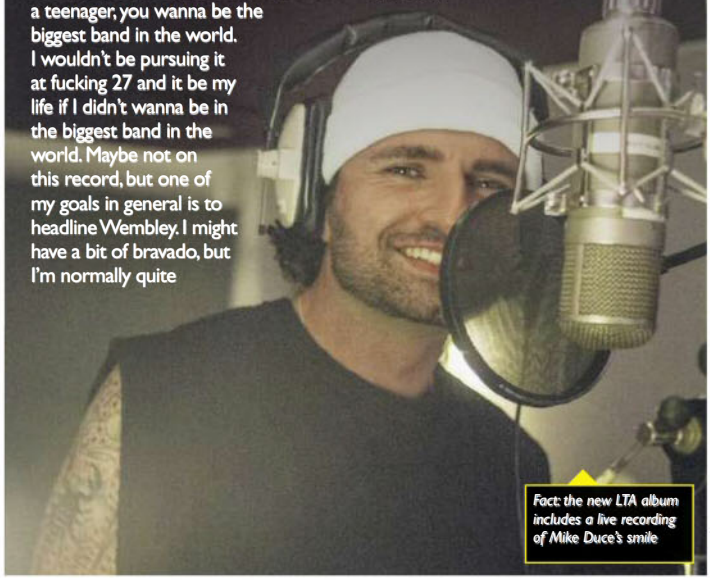
MIKE DUCE (*VOCALS*): "What can I say about them? They're *fucking* brilliant, that's about it. I reckon it's our best music to date, and I know that's a fucking cliché singer-of-band-bullshit-answer, but I'm not gonna say it's not. With our last album, it was some bangin' LTA songs, some rock bangers, and then it was a lot of stuff I'd written with boybands in mind and then rocked them up. But this album won't have any of that. This time, it's just 100 per cent [LTA]. There was a lot of uncertainty last time, it was like, 'Are we gonna do another album? Are we gonna break-up?' So, it was like, 'Whatever!' I feel really, really confident right now, almost in a smarmy, smug way, like, 'Just you wait, motherfuckers!' I've never felt like that before when making an album."

WHAT GOALS DO LTA HAVE THIS TIME AROUND?

"I would have denied this before, but anyone that starts a band as a teenager, you wanna be the biggest band in the world. I wouldn't be pursuing it at fucking 27 and it be my life if I didn't wanna be in the biggest band in the world. Maybe not on this record, but one of my goals in general is to headline Wembley. I might have a bit of bravado, but I'm normally quite pessimistic inside, because I think it's better to set your goals low because then if you surpass 'em, you're pleasantly surprised and it's great. If you set 'em massively high and don't hit the targets, you just feel like a prick (*laughs*). Am I writing these songs with Wembley in mind? They're so good, that I could play 'em down the pub, or at Wembley, or with an orchestra or on my own on a guitar and they'd still be great – I've made sure of that."

FINALLY, YOU'RE KNOWN FOR BEING VERY OUTSPOKEN ON TWITTER – WHY HAVE YOU QUIETENED DOWN ON IT LATELY?

"Mainly, I needed to sort out some stuff with myself, personally, at that time, and I was just concentrating on music. Also, I don't need validation from strangers on the internet, you know? I think I'm a good guy. While I wasn't using it, I sort of saw it from the outside, and it was very, 'Ohhh, love me, pleeeeease!' but I don't give a shit about that stuff."



Fact: the new LTA album includes a live recording of Mike Duce's smile

B IS FOR BIOGRAPHY

We've been excited for the release of **Maynard James Keenan**'s biography – a collaboration with writer and longtime friend **Sarah Jensen** – since news of its impending arrival first surfaced last October. The good news is now it has a name (**A Perfect Union Of Contrary Things**), a release date (**November 8**) and a clearer idea as to what it's about. "There's always that perception that whatever you've done that's the largest media-friendly thing in your life, where the world came to know of you, a perception that there was no life before, and that you were nothing before," says the singer of **Puscifer, A Perfect Circle** and **Tool**. "There's a lot of stuff that went on in my life that nobody really knows about. So, I feel like this is the chance to show the patterns, tell a story."

THEY SAID WHAT?

"IF I DON'T MEAN IT, I WON'T SAY IT"

LYNN GUNN, PVRIS

ISSUE 1628 JUL 16, 2016

K!ONFIDENTIAL
ROCK GOSSIP AND GIBBERISH

ROCK IN PEACE

MINDFULNESS... ALL YOUR FAVOURITE MUSICIANS ARE DOING IT. HERE, **TRIVIUM** FRONTMAN **MATT HEAFY** EXPLAINS WHY...

WHEN HE isn't fronting Trivium, Matt Heafy sits quietly, meditating. He got into it back in 2010 through his wife Ashley, who's a yoga instructor, and his favourite pose is Savasana, aka 'corpse pose'. "Although sounding quite metal, it's the relaxed state where you can allow meditation and rest to take place," explains Matt, who thinks it's great so many musicians (Rou Reynolds, Gerard Way, Matt Skiba et al) are openly practicing the art of mindfulness. "We have countless hours that we truly don't have a purpose or place. This is where awful, destructive habits can be realised and built to cataclysmic levels. Musicians discovering positive outlets, such as mediation, have changed the cliché into something atypical." Now, read Matt's five top tips for becoming more mindful...

1 EXERCISE YOUR MIND

"Just like the body, the mind is something that absolutely needs to be worked out. Human beings need a physical outlet, whether it's weights, yoga, running, martial arts or some form of cardiovascular activity. The main thing that people working to take care of their bodies neglect is taking care of their minds, as well. Whether it's talking to a therapist, channelling inner-peace through meditation or whatever mental-based exercise or therapeutic work it may be, this is as, if not more, essential than working out the body. Although sometimes the two go hand-in-hand."

2 BOOST CREATIVITY

"Creativity absolutely benefits from working the body and mind. Being someone who is always looking for sources of inspiration, some of the best moments for creativity for me have been after some sort of physical and mental outlet. Every day before recording [2011 album] In Waves, I would practice the Ashtanga primary series, finishing with meditation. Every day before recording [2015 album] Silence In The Snow, I would make sure I did jiu-jitsu to wipe the mind of all distractions. Remember, meditation isn't always sitting in a Zen-posture, it can be any state where the mind is freed."

3 LEARN ABOUT YOUR MIND

"Learning about your mind will teach you a lot about yourself. Just as good body habits can become a muscle memory, so can bad body habits, like bad posture during weight-lifting. This is also true for mental habits. The patterns of your mind and how you react to things are learned. Seeing how you are able to meditate and find that space will cause you to learn a lot about yourself and your mind. For me, at first, I would get frustrated trying to block everything out for meditating. When I eventually learned that I have to allow everything *in* to let my mind rest, that was where I truly found how I needed to meditate. Everyone will be different in this aspect."

4 PERSEVERE WITH MEDITATION

"Meditation can be a difficult thing to achieve. Finding the meditative-state for the first time can be absolutely frustrating. It takes work to allow all thought to disappear. I feel that the poses at the end of yoga are where the body has been exhausted of its efforts, and then the mind can be at peace. It's the same in jiu-jitsu. It really isn't until the actual grappling – after you've warmed up, worked on your techniques and spent excess energy – that your mind and body work out of reflex and not calculated thought. Even to this day, I sometimes have a hard time getting truly into the meditation if I force it. You have to allow it to happen. You can't force it."

5 TRY TO FIND INNER PEACE

"Finding a moment of mental peace can reset the brain and body. I find that any time your brain is allowed to clear itself naturally, or is able to allow everything in and find a sense of clear-minded-being, that is meditation. Even while playing shows, my mind can wander. Thinking randomly or thinking within myself during the moment occurs quite often at shows."

PANDORA BY RAY ZELL Rayzell.com

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THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

IT'S ALL CHANGE THIS WEEK! OUR PERSONAL FAVOURITE BATTLE IS **BLINK-182** AND **GOOD CHARLOTTE**'S FIGHT FOR THE BIGGEST POP-PUNK COMEBACK OF THE YEAR!

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	2	1	BMTH	Avalanche	SONY
2	2	1	BIFFY CLYRO	Animal Style	14TH FLOOR
3	2	3	BLINK-182	Bored To Death	BMG
4	2	4	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS	Dark Necessities	WARNER BROS.
5	3	3	TWENTY ONE PILOTS	Ride	FUELED BY RAMEN
6	5	4	ASKING ALEXANDRIA	Here I Am	SUMERIAN RECORDS
7	7	1	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Don't Threaten Me With A Good Time	FUELED BY RAMEN
8	3	8	CREEPER	Astral Projection	ROADRUNNER RECORDS
9	2	9	GOOD CHARLOTTE	40 Oz. Dream	MADDEN
10	2	10	MOOSE BLOOD	Knuckles	HOPELESS
11	15	3	AGAINST THE CURRENT	Running With The Wild Things	FUELED BY RAMEN
12	2	12	ARCHITECTS	Gone With The Wind	EPITAPH
13	8	10	ISSUES	Coma	RISE
14	7	5	WATERPARKS	Crave	SONY MUSIC/SONY RED
15	1	15	THE AMITY AFFLICTION	I Bring The Weather	ROADRUNNER
16	7	7	THE HUNNA	You & Me (Hunna Tree)	HIGH T.ME
17	13	1	ANDY BLACK	We Don't Have To Dance	ISLAND
18	7	18	VUKOVI	Animal	LAB RECORDS
19	6	19	DEAD!	You're So Cheap	INFECTIOUS
20	6	20	BEARTOOTH	Aggressive	RED BULL

AHREN STRINGER, THE AMITY AFFLICTION

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO RELEASE I BRING THE WEATHER AS THE FIRST SINGLE FROM THIS COULD BE HEARTBREAK?
"Well, we always knew it would be [the single]. It sets the stage, lyrically and musically, for the rest of the album, which is quite diverse compared to some of our previous releases. The track is very Amity, but we've tried a couple of things we've never done."

SO, WHAT HAS CHANGED BETWEEN YOUR LAST RECORD AND THIS ONE?
"I think we've matured a lot over the last few years, as people, songwriters and musicians. We're just becoming the best versions of ourselves we can be and writing better and better music."

CRUCIALLY, HAVE YOU EVER BROUGHT THE WEATHER WITH YOU?
"I think we brought it to Rock am Ring [cancelled due to thunderstorms], which was devastating."

JANINE SHILSTONE, VUKOVI

HEY! YOU'VE BEEN IN THE K! ROCK CHART FOR SEVEN WEEKS NOW – STOKED?
"Oh, fuck yeah! There is just no getting rid of us, eh?!"

DID YOU THINK ANIMAL WOULD BE A SUCCESS?
"It was a risk for us and we weren't sure if it was maybe too out-there. This tune has definitely made me realise to listen to my gut more often – not just when I'm hungry."

SO, IS THIS A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?
"We may be heading into the studio next month to record our debut album…"

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

KERRANG! TV
KERRANG! RADIO

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 10am with Loz Guest, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 4pm. Tune in and listen up!

AND NOW FOR A VERY SPECIAL BROADKAST ANNOUNCEMENT...

KERRANG! RADIO

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Good news, everyone! You can now access your favourite radio station from the comfort of your own pocket via our incredible FREE MOBILE APP – where you can listen live or on demand, watch our videos and access loads more, wherever you are! It is, quite simply, radio where you want it! Kerrang! Radio may have disappeared from DAB digital radio last year, outside of London at least, but we're still rocking your world on the awesome new app, as well as on Freeview digital TV channel 717, online at Kerrangradio.co.uk and on DAB radio in London. That aside, nothing else has changed! You still get all of the biggest stars like Biffy Clyro, 30 Seconds To Mars and You Me At Six doing special performances and generally having a good ol' larf on the airwaves on all your favourite shows! APP-y days! See what we did there?

THE SMALL PRINT!

Kerrang! Radio will also still be on DAB digital radio in London, but you might need to retune to find us. For more information on retuning and other ways to listen, just head to Kerrangradio.co.uk. We appreciate many of you may have questions or concerns about how you can still listen to your favourite radio station, and if you're still unsure of anything, you can always reach us by sending an email to kerrangqueries@bauermedia.co.uk.

ISSUE 1628 JUL 16, 2016

FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS

BROKEN TEETH

HEAVY-AS-HELL MANCHESTER MOB MAKING THE MOST OF THE UK HARDCORE SCENE'S CURRENT BOOM...

WORDS: RYAN DE FREITAS

RUDE HAND GESTURE ASIDE, THIS LOT LOOK ALMOST CHEERFUL...

They've got every reason to be! This is Broken Teeth, and with their pummelling debut record, At Peace Amongst Chaos, they've put out one of the best hardcore releases of the year. We shouldn't be too surprised at their success, though; their native Manchester has been building something great for a while. "It's one of those places where you always get special shows," frontman Dale Graham says of his hometown. "At one point it was the only northern place that would get American bands coming through, so it became a hot spot. A few years ago there was a huge push with a new generation of kids coming to shows, and they're starting new bands, too, so it's been great."

SOUNDS LIKE HE'S PROUD OF HIS TOWN, THEN. RECKON THAT'LL SPREAD TO THE REST OF THE UK?

If you ask Dale, it already has. "The country as a whole is the best it's ever been," he says, the excitement clear in his voice.

> ***"EVERYONE WANTS IN ON UK HARDCORE!"***

"There's more kids coming to shows, there's more bands starting... It's just in a great state at the minute. Everyone seems to want to get involved, whether that's playing music or making zines or whatever, everyone wants in on UK hardcore."

AREN'T BROKEN TEETH WORRIED THEY'LL GET LOST IN THE MIX?

Nope – and nor should they be. Hardcore is rooted in the collective, rather than the individual, and a strong scene is good for everyone. Dale and his band are a product of their scene, and they want to give back to it. "We don't really care to think of our friends as competition," he assures. "If anything, we're in a position where we can take our friends' bands out and expose them to new things. For me, that's my main thing; I want to get more people looking at UK hardcore as a whole."

GOOD PLAN! HERE'S HOPING IT'LL BE AMERICANS DYING TO SEE OUR HARDCORE BANDS SOON...

That's what Broken Teeth already have in mind. They've just come back from Sound And Fury Festival in Los Angeles where they played to "a room full of people pitting", according to Dale. The whole world is watching UKHC right now, and with bands as great as this around, you can see why.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF: Madball, Trapped Under Ice, Terror.
HEAR: Their brutal debut, At Peace Amongst Chaos, which is out now!
MORE INFO: Brokenteeth.bandcamp.com
CHECK OUT: The band on tour throughout the UK in July and August – see the Gig Guide.
DON'T MISS: Broken Teeth and more awesome new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesday at 10pm on K! Radio.

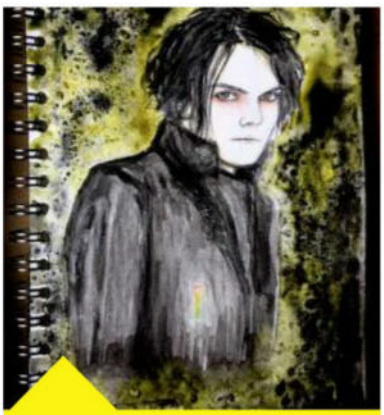
(L – R): Dave Egan (guitar), Dale Graham (vocals), Niall Moran (bass), Matt Weston (guitar), Adam Kelly (drums)

K!OMMUNITY

IT'S YOUR PAGE, YOUR LIFE!

THE SHADOW SMILE

*"I met Andy Black," says @mydigitalbxnds. This is a lovely pic of you both – but did someone **glue both** your hands to your legs before the shot or something? Hate it when that happens.*



CONVENTIONAL WEA-PENS

"I was so emotional about the poster the other week, I painted it the moment I bought it," says @originsoftime. Amazing effort, this is. It kinda looks like G is having a bath in coffee here, which is something we dream about regularly. Wait, what?

THE DIVINE HERO

*"Met Vic from Pierce The Veil and got to have a lovely conversation with him," says @_bringmedawn. What did this convo involve, **though?** The weather? Hat tips? Favourite food? Craziest misadventures? We. Need. To. Know.*

WINNER!

SOLO, SILENCE, PATIENCE & GRACE

"My dad is a big Star Wars and Foo Fighters fan, so I made him a birthday card mash-up," says @RoryJonze. This is incredible, dude! What song was Han Grohlo singing at this very moment? Learn To Fly (The Millennium Falcon)? Wookiee Wrench? Best Of Chew? Anyway, you've won some killer Star Wars vinyl and a turntable. Enjoy!

I WON'T GIVE INK

*"My Asking Alexandria **tattoo – best** band ever," says @JolliffeIndia. Verrrrrrry nice. And a pretty damn accurate representation of what our actual heart looks like. For reals. How did you know?*

WISHFUL GRINNING

"Me and Ben from Neck Deep" says @hannaisawstr. An adorable snap, this is. Little did you realise, behind that cheeky grin and cute hand gesture lies a monster. A MONSTER, WE TELLS YA! Okay, maybe not. That Benny boy's a good egg, tbf.

NEXT WEEK

WIN! MARSHALL HEADPHONES WORTH £129!

Bumped into Frank Iero at the train station recently? Hung out with Awsten Knight in an ***actual* waterpark? If you've** got proof, we want to see – share your pics with us, using **#Kommunity**. The best will win these amazing **Marshall Major II Bluetooth** headphones! Good luck!

#Squadgoals: (Clockwise from top left) Jenna McDougall, Kellin Quinn, Awsten Knight, Elijah Witt and Jayden Seeley

VANS WARPED TOUR'16

Without his contact lenses, Awsten couldn't locate his guitar.

MY OWN SUMMER! (LOVE IT)

GREY BRITAIN GETTING YOU DOWN? US TOO. SO WE JUMPED ABOARD THE **WARPED TOUR** IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA, TO SHARE SOME SUN, RIFFS AND PARTIES WITH **SLEEPING WITH SIRENS**, **TONIGHT ALIVE**, **CANE HILL**, **WATERPARKS** AND **WITH CONFIDENCE**...

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE **PHOTOS:** LINDSEY BYRNES **ADDITIONAL WORDS:** DAN SLESSOR

Let's face it: the UK is in a funk right now – still reeling from the result of the referendum to leave the European Union, and a spate of hate crimes that revealed just how deep the divisions within our nation have become. With protests filling the street, and despair and despondency hanging heavy in the air, in short: things are a bit grim right now.

What we need is some sun. What we need is a sense of community. What we need is the *Warped Tour*.

That's why K! has travelled some 4,336 miles to the Camping World Stadium, located in the West Lakes neighbourhood of Downtown Orlando, where the many stages of this, the eighth date of the 42 on this year's trek, surround the stadium like an army laying siege to a mighty castle. Among this year's invading hoards is Falling In Reverse, Sum 41, Good Charlotte, Less Than Jake and New Found Glory – the latter's appearance meaning Hayley Williams dropped by the recent date in her native Nashville to surprise visitors to the stand for her hair colour range, goodDYEyoung (though not a musical cameo on NFG duet Vicious Love).

It's only early days, however, with the tour kicking off a week ago in Austin, Texas, and ending in six weeks' time in Portland, Oregon. What's more, at a time of continued inequality, Warped Tour has an egalitarian approach to things, with the order of the bill changing completely each day – meaning you could be headlining one day and *opening* the same stage the next.

Despite the sunny weather and dispositions, Orlando has, of course, been in the news for a very different reason – thanks to a deadly reminder of what can happen when the societal disharmony the UK has been experiencing reaches boiling point. On June 12, Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old security guard, committed the deadliest mass shooting by a single gunman in U.S. history, killing 49 people and injuring 53 others inside Pulse, a gay nightclub a mere seven-minute drive from our current location.

Tonight Alive's Jenna McDougall, for one – arriving promptly at 6pm having played a triumphant set at 12:30pm on the Journeys Right Foot stage and admitting, even this early in the tour, everyone is feeling "a little exhausted" – took to Twitter to encourage fans to display their rainbow LGBT flags high and proud during their set.

"It was really special," says Jenna of the resulting spectacle. "We got to play early and it really set the tone for my day; people had their flags in the air and were

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

DERYCK WHIBLEY
SUM 41

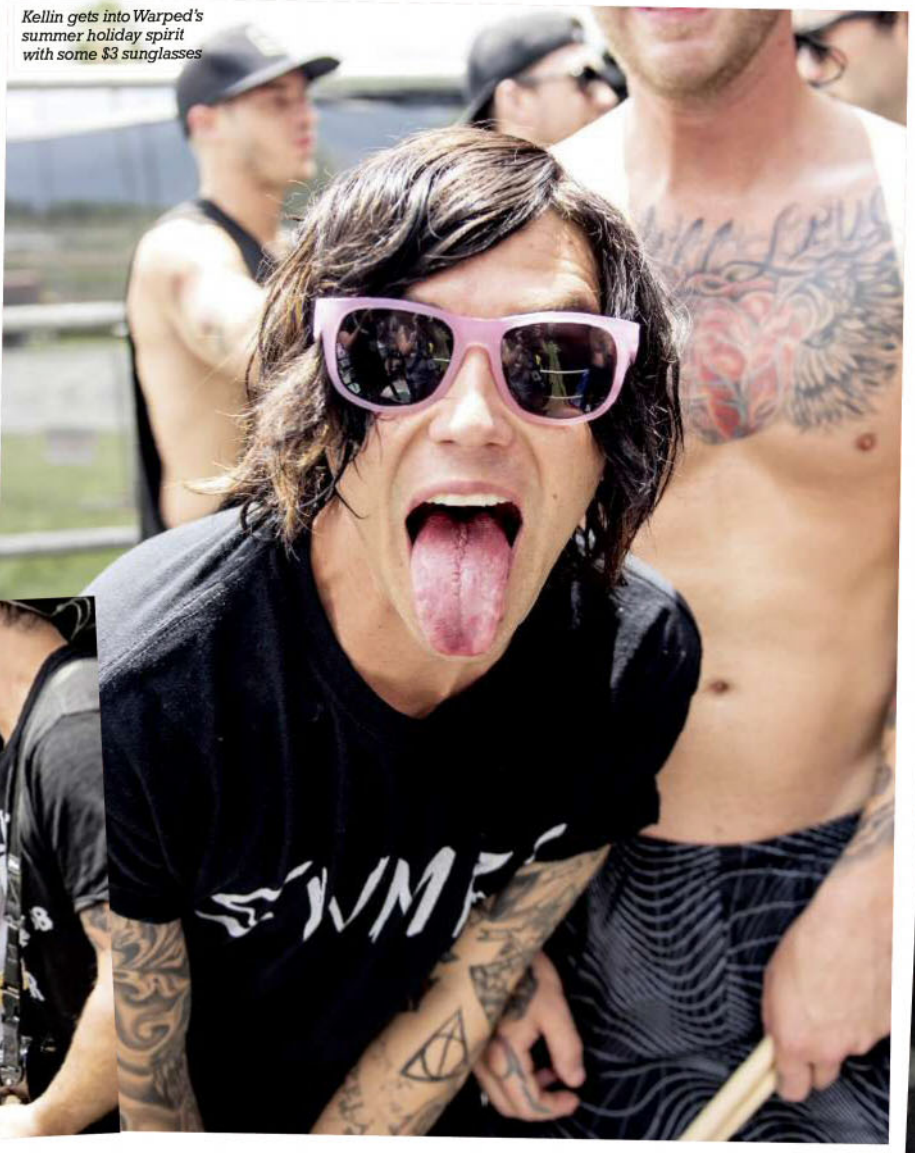
WARPED IS YOUR FIRST CHANCE TO GIVE NEW SINGLE FAKE MY OWN DEATH AN OUTING – HOW'S IT BEEN GOING?
"Yeah, we've played it a few times, and it's gone over really well. We were nervous at first to play a new song because we didn't get any rehearsal time, but we talked it through before we went onstage and jumped into playing it. It was surprisingly kinda perfect the first day!"

WHAT'S THE SUM 41 BUS LIKE AT THE END OF THE DAY?
"It's not as crazy as it used to be, for a lot of reasons, but we have a full bus, so there's a lot of people on there! It's not the rolling after-hours club it was back in the day – after everything that has gone on with me, it's been a wake-up call for all of us."

HAVE YOU BEEN TO ANY OF WARPED'S LEGENDARY BARBECUES?
"Not yet – I try to eat a lot better nowadays. I'll definitely catch up with friends while we're out here, but I'm going to be more picky with what I eat!"

WHAT'S YOUR BEST SUMMER MEMORY?
"Our first Warped Tour in 1996. I was 16 years old, and it was the first time I felt, 'Fuck it, I'm not a kid any more!' It was really cool to feel like I was living my own life for the first time."

Warped: the hayfever-sufferer's worst nightmare



Kellin gets into Warped's summer holiday spirit with some $3 sunglasses

Sleeping With Sirens play rock-paper-scissors to determine who gets the first post-set shower

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

JORDAN PUNDIK
NEW FOUND GLORY

HOW DOES IT FEEL KNOWING YOU INSPIRED SO MANY BANDS ON THIS YEAR'S BILL?
"It feels strange but flattering. It's really cool when someone tells me they looked up to me in high school, started a band and now they're here on Warped Tour with us. I can relate to that, because I looked up to Less Than Jake and get to play with *them* on Warped Tour!"

WHAT'S THE GREATEST THING ABOUT WARPED?
"The camaraderie between the bands – and everyone complaining about their sunburn! We all get excited for our day off and making plans to go to the beach or see a movie or something. When I'm at home I switch off 'band mode', so when I'm out here I want to make the most of it."

WHAT'S YOUR BEST SUMMER MEMORY?
"When I was 13, I went with my cousin and aunt to Israel and Egypt and a couple of other places in that region, and it was my first time travelling outside of the States. It was such a cool experience – it opened my eyes to the world, and it makes me appreciate that I get to travel and see so many places with the band."

cheering. We all feel drawn to these times when you want to show your support and use your voice."

"That's awesome," chimes in Kellin Quinn, frontman of Orlando natives Sleeping With Sirens, whose band had the same flags hanging from their guitar amps during their set on the same stage a couple of hours later. "It's very easy to get lost in all the negative things that are going on right now. It's great for fans to come here and experience positivity and forget about the world outside."

That's certainly a sentiment shared by fellow tourmates The Maine, whose frontman, John O'Callaghan, stopped the song Growing Up midway through in Dallas to playfully chastise the crowd.

"We're all here, socialising," he said. "We're not on fucking Snapchat – they can watch if they want to come fucking watch it… My friends: forget about *everything*."

Back in the here and now, Kellin embraces Jenna, their two bands having toured together with Pierce The Veil on their Collide With The Sky tour in 2012 – and will both be heading to this year's Reading & Leeds Festivals. Empowered by the support, Jenna continues her line of thought.

"Sometimes you feel scared because you think it's not your place to feel connection to that loss, but it is because we're all human. The only thing that people like us can do is use our voice and stand up to those that promote separatism in the world."

There's certainly no shortage of unity at Warped Tour. For proof, you need only look out of the window of the venue at the many fans of all genders, colours, creeds and musical preferences meshing into a happy, excitable whole outside. "It's unlike anything I've ever seen before," says a wide-eyed Jayden Seeley of With Confidence. "It really is like a travelling circus!" And if you want a snappy illustration of the broad, harmonious church of bands that make up the travelling festival in 2016, look no further than the five markedly different individuals that have taken time out of their busy – and unpredictable – schedules today for this informal summit of this new generation of world-beating bands. It's a line-up that includes Jenna on the one end of the spectrum – a relative veteran of the tour, and looking even more like the good fairy thanks to a pristine pixie cut – and, at the other, Cane Hill frontman Elijah Witt, who skulks into view, his beard and battered baseball cap making him resemble a young version of shark hunter Quint from Jaws, and regaling us with unprintable tales of his band's herculean drug intake at the "chaotic, messy" K! Awards, where they picked up the gong for Best International Newcomer.

This meeting could get very interesting, indeed…

Asking the five people now sat together in the spacious, white-walled chill-out room in the bowels of the stadium how they know one another is to open the door to stories ranging from the fun to the fantastical and, in one case, the downright *freaky*.

First up, Kellin and Awsten Knight, the frontman of Texas trio Waterparks – whose hair isn't dissimilar to Jenna's, only in blue – both share a Good Charlotte connection. Kellin has added his formidable pipes to Keep Swingin', one of the tracks from Good Charlotte's forthcoming sixth album, Youth Authority – while the

Awsten, we've told you before, you don't need a pass to use the loo

"I'VE COME TO EVERY WARPED TOUR SINCE I WAS 12 YEARS OLD!"

AWSTEN KNIGHT, WATERPARKS

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

GUSTAV WOOD
YOUNG GUNS

WHAT'S THE MOST FUN THING ABOUT WARPED TOUR?
"It really is the sense of community. I love waking up every day and being surrounded by 100 other buses. All the time you're meeting new people and making new friends – who, granted, might need to wash! But while touring can sometimes be an isolated experience, this just has such a warm vibe."

WHO'S THE BEST BAND YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?
"I think it would be a tie between coldrain and The Word Alive. We saw coldrain playing early in the afternoon the other day, and I was just blown away by how slick and energetic they were, and right now I think The Word Alive have a bunch of great songs, and the crowd went off as soon as they started!"

WHO'S BUS IS THE PARTY BUS?
"Probably ours! We're sharing with Cane Hill and we've had a few big nights so far! John [Taylor, guitar] and I had birthdays, so we had a big night in New Orleans, too. We went to Bourbon Street and drank Hand Grenades, which are an obscene concoction of different alcoholic drinks. The memories get less and less clear from there…"

HOW ARE YOUR NEW SONGS GOING DOWN?
"Really great. Since this is our first Warped Tour and we're playing to a lot of new people, we thought it was a prime opportunity to play new songs, and both Bulletproof and Echoes are going off great. It's a wonderful feeling being able to play new songs and seeing how quickly people are reacting to them."

"IT'S GREAT FOR FANS TO COME TO WARPED AND FORGET ABOUT THE WORLD OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE"

KELLIN QUINN, SLEEPING WITH SIRENS

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

CHRIS MOTIONLESS MOTIONLESS IN WHITE

HAVING PLAYED WARPED TOUR EIGHT TIMES, DOES IT FEEL LIKE HOME TO YOU?
"Yeah, it's gotten to a point now where we definitely consider ourselves among the veterans. We know the game inside and out, and being here this year is super-easy, which makes things so much more fun. We're not distracted by any bullshit, it's just about where we're at and what we're doing each day."

WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE SEEN FROM THE STAGE SO FAR?
"Today, some guy was dressed up in Jesus robes with the long hair and the beard, and during one of the songs I pointed at him and said, 'My man Jesus – *part* these fucking waves!' He opened up a pit and it got totally crazy!"

WHO HAVE YOU BEEN HANGING OUT WITH MOST?
"Our friends in Chelsea Grin. I think we've done every single summer with them since 2009, so they're our bros. They're a great bunch of guys, and it would be so weird if we *didn't* see them somewhere between June through August! There's a lot of great people out here, though."

WHAT'S THE WORST THING ABOUT BEING A GOTH IN THE SUMMERTIME?
"Trying to keep your fucking make-up on! Holy shit, is that impossible! There is no setting spray that was made to stand the brutality of Warped Tour, I'll tell you that! Even though we're only playing for 30 minutes every day, by the time we're done, *all* of my foundation is just *gone*."

Madden brothers co-manage Waterparks, with guitarist Benji Madden co-producing their full-length debut.

"Kellin came on our bus to listen to four or five tracks from it," says Awsten of the record he suggests will be out later this year.

"That is true," chirps Kellin, his already sizeable blue/green eyes widening with glee. "It's sounding *so* great! It's such a pleasure to have you guys out here and see you growing into something that's going to be next-level."

"Thank you, dude!" beams Awsten.

Meanwhile, Waterparks met Australian quartet With Confidence while in the UK playing at Slam Dunk in May – on the Kerrang! Fresh Blood stage, no less.

"They were actually the first band that we talked to over there and they were super, super-nice," enthuses Waterparks singer-guitarist Awsten, drawing smiles and winks from his relatively new BFF, With Confidence's Jayden. "But I don't trust them," Awsten adds suddenly, causing Jayden's smile to drop.

"Why not?" asks Jayden, audibly concern.

"Because you guys convinced us that 'Drop Bears' were a real thing."

Sorry – *what-bears?*

"It's not a thing – that's why you haven't heard of it," explains Awsten, a smile beginning to spread across his face. "Jayden said it's basically a koala-like animal that lives up in the trees and has rabies and they jump onto your head and bite you. The idea frightened us and we didn't find out until much later that they were making them up."

The group laughs uproariously.

"It's an Aussie thing to convince foreigners of ridiculous things about Australia," laughs Jayden in his own defence.

One Aussie-related fact that *sounds* like it's made up (but isn't) is how fellow Sydney bands With Confidence and Tonight Alive know each other – a connection that goes *way* back.

"Their guitarist, Inigo [Del Carmen], is the older brother of my little sister's best friend at school. We've even been on a family holiday together before," says Jenna, recalling in particular a trip to Vanuatu [an archipelago located in the South Pacific], where in the "beautiful and serene" surroundings she penned The Greatest, the closing track to their third album, Limitless, released earlier this year.

"It's truly a small world," adds Jayden. "Just before the tour started, we were staying in the same hotel and weren't aware of it at the time. We had a knock on the door of our bus, which was parked outside, and Jenna and Whak [Tonight Alive guitarist Whakaio Taahi] just walked in like, 'Hey, guys!' It's really nice to have friends on the tour and it's refreshing to hear a familiar accent."

"These guys also opened one of our shows in Sydney a number of years ago," recalls Jenna. "I'm *really* proud of them because it's really hard for Australian music to be recognised internationally – it's a story you don't hear that often back home," she enthuses, highlighting Warped Tour's ability to be a platform for career-making performances,

Jayden didn't sleep for four days after hearing Awsten's spooky story

Tyler Carter smiled and pretended he knew what on earth Jenna was looking at

Coming soon: supergroup Cane The Empire

Cooling off, Cane Hill style

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

TYLER CARTER ISSUES

AFTER ALL THE STRESS ENDURED WHILE MAKING YOUR NEW ALBUM, HEADSPACE, HOW DOES IT FEEL WATCHING PEOPLE GO CRAZY TO THE SONGS EVERY DAY?
"It's very rewarding – it's pretty sick out here! Some people are still getting used to them, but Yung & Dum is going down great, and COMA is getting a really good reaction, too. We're loving playing them and having a good time."

WHO'S THE BEST BAND YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?
"It'd be a tie between Tonight Alive and State Champs – I enjoy seeing them every time. They're both so tight, you can feel so strongly how they've been playing together for years and years. It's easy to see why the crowds go off for them every day."

WHO'S THE MOST EXCITED FAN YOU'VE MET?
"We've had a couple people burst into tears, and my natural reaction is to laugh and try to make light of it so they know we're down-to-earth and nothing to be scared of – or be too excited about! We've been given some nice paintings and drawings by fans, too, which are really cute."

WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE SEEN FROM THE STAGE?
"There was a girl in a wheelchair crowd-surfing today, and that was pretty awesome. I haven't seen anyone dressed up as a banana or anything else so far this year – it's so hot I think anyone putting on one of those will sweat themselves to death!"

even for bands some 9,000 miles from home.

So, Elijah, how do you know everybody? Have you been on holiday with anyone here?

"We're one of those bands that keeps to ourselves," he drawls, more shy than sinister, the irony of the straight-faced delivery from a man whose band's debut album is called Smile not wasted on K!. "It's not because we don't like people, it's because we're bad at conversing with people that aren't like us. We're kind of pieces of shit."

"I know how we know you," guffaws Awsten. "You stuck your finger in my mouth the other night!"

Elijah initially appears confused, before flashing a look that suggests it's a possibility that this did in fact take place.

So, did it?

"Well, I was drunk, so I can't remember – but I certainly don't doubt it," Elijah rumbles playfully. "It's a thing I've done before, so there's 100 per cent a chance that it happened."

Can we ask why?

"I couldn't elaborate," he replies flatly, presumably because it's hard to rationalise an act he doesn't recall committing. Awsten, however, knows the reason.

"I was walking by and he was stood there with his finger out, so I said, 'Put it in my mouth'… so he did!"

The question remains, though: um, just *why*?

"I was just thinking, 'I wonder what that tastes like…'" explains Awsten, clearly relishing his role as the chatterbox of the group.

And what did it taste like?

"It tasted like sweaty-guy-finger – it was *exactly* what I was expecting."

"Sounds about right," snorts Elijah, holding up the offending digit. "We also know [Waterparks] because their tour manager is the same one we use in America, and they have our long-time merch guy right now – so they're basically taking our crew one at a time, screwing us from the inside," he deadpans.

That mild piece of frostiness aside, it's fair to say the ice has been broken…

Having this much loo roll soon made Ghost Town's Kevin everyone's best friend

Even in the early evening, the air in which the likes of Set It Off and The Story So Far are currently performing in is as thick as treacle.

Awsten, who's "been coming to Warped Tour since I was 12 years old, and I've gone every single year since", and is particularly excited to watch his heroes in Sum 41, compliments Kellin for wearing one of their T-shirts; his own still spotted with the remnants of the 32°C heat and 94 per cent humidity outside. It's fair to say he's found the conditions trying.

"Notes that I'm normally totally fine to hit and hold out for a long time are now twice as hard and I'm like, 'How?!'" booms Awsten.

Meanwhile, Elijah, who admits his "fond childhood memories of Warped Tour were wishing that it would come to [his native] fucking New Orleans" [it hasn't visited since 2001], has also experienced problems onstage, but those were to do with his own internal climate.

"It's definitely something that your body has to adjust to," he says, before suggesting his trickier adjustment is not having the Starbucks he "prays to

State Champs' Derek DiScanio tried to hook up a ride to Warped's next stop

Having spent too long out in the sun, Kellin forgot what band he was in

SWS' Jack Fowler flies the flag of Pride over Warped

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

DEREK DiSCANIO
STATE CHAMPS

WHAT ARE YOUR WARPED TOUR ESSENTIALS?
"Water! Or you'll *die*! You can maybe drink 10 water bottles in an hour and might not even have to use the bathroom you're sweating so much! Sunblock is a good one, too, and I've escaped being burned yet, and considering how hot it was when we started in Texas, I'm feeling really lucky!"

WHO'S THE MOST EXCITED FAN YOU'VE MET ON THE TOUR?
"We have this group of Japanese fans who have flown to the States for the third time to see us. They only came for two shows and we put them on the guestlist for another, and they were so thankful they were trying to give us money! We're just so happy they like our band so much!"

WHO'S THROWING THE BEST PARTIES THIS YEAR?
"We had a long night outside The Story So Far's bus, playing beer pong, and all these other bands who we don't even know were joining in and hanging out, and that was a great time. State Champs talked a big game but I don't think we won one game, while Tonight Alive definitely had all the skills – but they're just good at *everything*!"

WHAT'S THE EARLIEST THAT YOU'VE HAD TO PLAY SO FAR?
"Not first yet, thank God! We've played last one day already, which was very cool, and I know our time will come for the early start. In 2014 we drew big enough crowds we were lucky to get moved up to a bigger stage – but I think we ended up playing first or second *every* day after that!"

HOW MANY BARBECUES HAVE YOU BEEN TO?
"Two so far, and the first one was a big pool party. They had a bunch of blow-up pools, and it took a little while for anyone to get in them, but once everyone got some drinks in them, clothes were flying everywhere and people were flipping into them, which was a good time!"

New Found Glory pull out their best selfie faces for their signing

Set It Off and Chrissy Costanza (below) tuck into catering

Crown the Empire regret not asking for double beds

God" is in his vicinity when he wakes up in a new city.

"My problem is that I zone out during the entire show," explains Elijah. "My brain is just gone; all thoughts gone – all I have is the lyrics, the music and the muscle memory. I zone out. It's caused me to fuck up so many times! I completely forgot to come in on Time Bomb the other day, so there was a nice solid 35 – 40 seconds of just James [Barnett] playing guitar and staring at me. I stuck my hands out and started pointing at the crowd, so they thought that I was doing it on purpose… I *wasn't*!"

The group explodes into a laugh of recognition as Elijah seizes his head in his hands.

On this year's Warped, constructive pursuits seem to be the new partying. Even Elijah, who admits to "smoking a bunch of weed" as part of his daily schedule, has limited his drinking due to the exhaustive conditions.

"I think that when we get up to the north east, that's when I'll start getting drunk again," he says, swigging a beer.

"I haven't seen any bad behaviour – I'm an old fucking man," says the 30-year-old Kellin – no doubt reflecting upon the fact we're less than a quarter of the way through the tour – before telling us his preferred way of spending his downtime. "On every date on the tour, we've been doing these TEI [The Entertainment Institute] workshops. Me and Nick [Martin, SWS guitarist] have been doing this talk called Save Me A Spark, in which we talk to young kids about our 'spark', which for us is obviously music, and then trying to instil some positivity, which is important if they're having a bad time."

Meanwhile, Jenna and Awsten have been bonding over some of the tour's other extracurricular offerings.

"There was this really synchronistic moment when he was talking about wanting to see a psychic," explains Jenna. "I told him that there was a healer on the tour and she literally walked past at that moment, which was spooky. I felt like that was the beginning of our friendship, because we shared this intimate and personal moment when she was 'reading' us both, when we'd only just met!"

So, what did she tell you?

"She doesn't predict the future. She basically reads your past and connects issues that you have now with something that's subconscious."

The tour's resident psychic might not be able to see into the future, but K! certainly can. And while we couldn't possibly have foreseen the rainstorm that later bombards the crowd during We The Kings and Mayday Parade's headline sets, we certainly predict bigger things for the five bands that make up this class of 2016. Delivering powerful performances and positive vibes in abundance (okay, possibly not the latter for Cane Hill), they all look sure to make Planet Earth theirs.

Although, right now, as the Warped Tour buses pack up and head off into the night, destined for another sun-soaked venue tomorrow, the outside world can wait just a little bit longer…

Did Jayden regret bringing jeans to Warped? Yes, Jayden very much regretted bringing jeans to Warped

"WARPED IS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE. IT'S A TRAVELLING CIRCUS!"

JAYDEN SEELEY, WITH CONFIDENCE

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

ALEX COSTELLO
ROAM

THIS IS YOUR FIRST-EVER WARPED TOUR – IS IT LIVING UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS?
"It's *better*. A lot of people told me it was going to be stressful, but it's not at all. Maybe that's just because I'm the singer in a band, but every day is like summer camp. You wake up and it's sunny every day, and you go out and have fun!"

WHAT'S THE MOST FUN THING ABOUT WARPED TOUR?
"That summer camp vibe. You have your set, your signing, you go to catering and then you spend the rest of the day chilling. How could that be anything but fun?"

WHO'S THE BEST BAND YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?
"Wage War, hands down. They are *so* tight, and they're playing on an outside stage most of the time, but they give it all no matter how hot it is! *And* they wear jeans while they're onstage. They just put out their first album and to be smashing it is amazing."

WHAT ARE YOUR WARPED TOUR ESSENTIALS?
"Tea bags. America doesn't really do very good tea, so I made sure to bring plenty with me, and I'd say your phone charger is an essential, too, but I already lost mine! And then water – our fridge is full of bottled water, and you want one every 10 minutes. And then every two minutes you're going to the toilet because of it!"

WHAT ARE THE CRAZIEST ONSTAGE ANTICS YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?
"Masked Intruder are on this tour, and when they're playing they wear different coloured balaclavas. At some point during their set, their tour manager comes on dressed as a cop, and then he strips down to his underwear. It's definitely a strange one, but it's also pretty entertaining every time they do it!"

MY SUMMER OF WARPED

CHRISSY COSTANZA
AGAINST THE CURRENT

WHO'S THE BEST BAND YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?
"Falling In Reverse put on the *best* show. Anyone going to see them is entertained from start to finish – you can't look away for a second while they're onstage!"

WHO'S THE MOST EXCITED FAN YOU'VE MET?
"There's been a few, but one girl came to the workshop we've been putting on the other day, and we didn't actually end up teaching any of the workshop because she spent 35 minutes telling us her life story. She was just really excited and so happy to meet us, which was really nice and fun."

WHAT ARE YOU TEACHING IN YOUR WORKSHOP?
"We're teaching people about building a band from scratch based on our experiences. After we first started, we did a lot of things before we signed – like played Warped Tour – and we're telling people about how you can make something from nothing, and make it massive yourselves before you take it to the next level."

YOU WENT TO HARRY POTTER WORLD ON YOUR OFF-DAY – DID YOU HAVE FUN?
"It was *amazing*! I bought a robe and a wand and drank Butterbeer until I wanted to throw up! I'm a *huge* Harry Potter fan, so I was in my happy place the whole time!"

Summer's HOTTEST TICKETS!

WHILE WARPED TOUR TEARS ACROSS THE POND, WE'RE SPOILT FOR CHOICE WHEN IT COMES TO THE UK'S SUMMER OF ROCK – AS THESE UNMISSABLE SHOWS PROVE!

WORDS: RYAN DE FREITAS, SAM LAW, DAN SLESSOR, PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTOS:** GETTY, IAN COLLINS

FALL OUT BOY

PETE, PATRICK, ANDY AND JOE BRACE FOR THEIR BIGGEST EVER UK PERFORMANCE…

HEADLINING READING & LEEDS: NO BIG DEAL, THEN…

PETE WENTZ (*BASS*): "Honestly… I'll be real honest: we were shutting it down for the summer. We were like, 'Let's just take some time off,' but that's how powerful a co-headline spot at Reading & Leeds is! It pulled us right back in – it's like that Al Pacino thing [from the Godfather III]: every time I get out, you pull me back in! (*Laughs*) In a really *positive* way, of course! All of the guys were like, 'Totally, I'm in!' It's really cool and really *rare* in a democratic band to have everyone say, 'Yeah, this changes the situation!'"

YOUR CO-HEADLINERS, BIFFY CLYRO, HAVE A NEW ALBUM OUT – DO FALL OUT BOY HAVE ANYTHING IN THE WORKS RIGHT NOW?

"We've been in tour mode, but, honestly, we're always *kind* of writing. I feel like any time I say this kind of stuff, because we've been so secretive about it before, people are like, 'Oh, if they say they're *not* dropping something, then they're *definitely* dropping something!' (*Laughs*) But we have *no plan* right now to drop music before Reading & Leeds. Watch me now get kicked in the ass by us writing a song two weeks before the festivals (*laughs*)!"

ARE YOU LIKELY TO BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY ALONG TO SHARE THE MOMENT AT THE FESTIVALS WITH THEM?

"We've talked about it only briefly, but I've thought it'd be cool to bring my family over and kinda make a European trip out of it. We'll see – two children on a 12-hour flight might be a little crazy! I think there would be nothing cooler than for them to be able to get to watch and check it out and see it – though I would have to say that my seven-year-old will probably be on his Nintendo DS when that's happening! It's good, though – it's humbling that he's that impressed with dad onstage!"

READING & LEEDS; AUGUST 26 – 28; RICHFIELD AVENUE & BRAMHAM PARK

Fall Out Boy: forever having to deal with severed hands being thrown at them

COHEED & CAMBRIA

RE-ENERGISED AT THE IDEA OF NEW MUSIC, ROCK'S BIG-THINKERS ARE PLOTTING AWAY…

JUST HOW EXCITED ARE YOU FOR YOUR UK DATES?
CLAUDIO SANCHEZ (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "I'm really looking forward to them! I think we had a great run the last time we were over, so it's nice to kind of return and do it all over again!"

JUST HOW EXCITED SHOULD *WE* BE FOR YOUR UK DATES?
"Um… (*laughs*) pretty excited, I think! Right now there's an energy around the band – we've just started working on ideas for a new record, and everyone's really excited about that, and some of that excitement is spilling into everybody's consciousness. I think that's going to reflect in our performances, that anxiousness to create something new again will be there and a part of the physicality of what we do live, and I think that makes for something really special. I think it'll be an exciting show, with that kind of feeling kind of fuelling us."

WILL YOU BE BRINGING ANY SONGS WE HAVEN'T HEARD IN A WHILE?
"Possibly! We've been talking about a couple of ideas, not actually necessarily for this tour, but for a couple of things that will be happening next year, so we *might* inject some of those things into the set list to start warming ourselves up for those – but I don't want to promise anything!"

ARE YOU GOING ON VACATION ANYWHERE THIS SUMMER?
"Right now I'm sitting in my apartment in the city and working on ideas – and *that*, to me, is a vacation! I will attend San Diego Comic Con next week, and *that's* a vacation for me, because that's the other side of things I love – comic books and video games. I love plugging myself into it. I get to spread the message of the books I create, but also just be a fan."

HEADLINE SHOWS: AUGUST: GLASGOW (22), MANCHESTER (23), LONDON (24)

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

SAYING GOODBYE IS NEVER EASY – BUT IT CAN LEAVE YOU MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME…

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE UK THAT MADE IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO STOP BY ON THIS FAREWELL TOUR?
JUSTIN PIERRE (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "We wanted to make sure we could do as much as possible seeing as this is our last hurrah, and the UK has always been an important place for us. People just seemed to be really receptive to us from the start. Even our hometown took a few years for people to come around, but it seemed like the UK was into what we were doing the whole time!"

IS GOING OUT ON A HIGH SOMETHING YOU CAN TAKE PRIDE IN?
"Yeah, more so than slowly dissolving into nothingness. It's a much better feeling to do that. We've spent the last 16 years of our lives touring and being visitors in our own lives. I don't wanna speak for everyone, but I know, for me, I really wanna be here in my daughter's life."

GIVEN IT'S YOUR FINAL CHANCE TO PLAY THESE SONGS, WHAT'S THE SET LIST GONNA LOOK LIKE?
"In the U.S., by the end of the first leg [of this farewell run] we had a good core set list. For us it's about the flow of the set. It's focused a lot on the first three or four records so far. We try to rotate in some requests from people on social media, too."

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN AFTER THE FINAL, *FINAL* SHOW AT AMERICA'S RIOT FEST? JUST GONNA PUT YOUR FEET UP AND GET INTO FATHERHOOD?
"Yup, pretty much. But I'm definitely gonna make music again. I just don't know how available it's gonna be. I put a song up on Bandcamp a while back that people seemed to dig, so maybe there will be that in my future…"

HEADLINE SHOWS: AUGUST: MANCHESTER (17), BIRMINGHAM (18), LONDON (19)

GOOD CHARLOTTE

POP-PUNK ROYALTY MAKE A LONG-AWAITED COMEBACK

WHY SHOULD FANS MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO SEE YOU THIS SUMMER?
BENJI MADDEN (*GUITAR*): "We're a completely reinvigorated band! We've not felt this way since the first album. We're all in love with Good Charlotte again. I think fans can really feel when you're really inspired – and when you're not."
JOEL MADDEN (*VOCALS*): "Getting to see Good Charlotte play live has become a very rare thing. We don't play much live any more and we probably won't play a lot ever again. One thing we're planning is that for every individual set of shows, all the merch will be exclusive to that run. We feel like it's the best merch we've ever done."

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT PLAYING SUMMER SHOWS?
BENJI: "The vibe at summer shows is just undeniable. And when we're out at festivals, we're still like little kids going, 'Who's on the line-up?!' It's as exciting for us as it is for the fans!"

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST SUMMER EVER?
JOEL: "Our first summers on the Warped Tour! Getting to go out early on with bands like Rancid, AFI, Sum 41 and Anti-Flag, and getting to watch them play every day was a dream come true."

HEADLINE SHOWS; AUGUST; LONDON (22), GLASGOW (24), MANCHESTER (25), BIRMINGHAM (27). READING & LEEDS; AUGUST 26 – 28; RICHFIELD AVENUE & BRAMHAM PARK

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

YOUR BEST BRITISH BAND 2016 WINNERS COME HOME

IS DENIS FEELING LESS LIKE 'THE NEW GUY' AND MORE AN INTEGRAL PART OF AA FOR THIS NEW UK TOUR?
BEN BRUCE (*GUITAR*): "When we played the UK with Denis [in October], he was still new and he was still getting into the swing of things. With every show, he's got better and more confident. When we come back this time, it's going to be insanity!"

WILL YOU BE PLAYING MORE SONGS FROM THE BLACK?
"The album's been out a while now, so people have had more time to learn and digest the songs. We want to add more and play some of the new songs we've not played before. But we're also looking at mixing it up and playing some songs from the old albums we've not played in years!"

IF YOU REWROTE BRYAN ADAMS' SUMMER OF '69, WHAT WOULD 'YOUR SUMMER' BE?
"Probably the summer of 2011. It doesn't have the same ring to it as '69, and there's no sexual innuendo, but it was the first time we ever did the Warped Tour, which was so important for us."

HEADLINE TOUR; AUGUST; SOUTHAMPTON (15), LONDON (16). READING & LEEDS; AUGUST 26 – 28; RICHFIELD AVENUE & BRAMHAM PARK

Will is gonna regret wearing leather onstage in five… four… three…

CREEPER

THE SUMMER'S FINAL CHANCE TO SEE WILL GOULD AND CO BEFORE THEY EXPLODE…

DO YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULARLY GREAT SUMMER MEMORIES?
WILL GOULD (*VOCALS*): "I try to avoid the sun! I sweat so much in the summer that I try and avoid going outside.
I remember with our old band, Our Time Down Here, we did a really long European tour and we were travelling and sleeping in this really awful van.
I remember being in Italy somewhere and waking up and the van smelling *horrendous*, 'cause it had seven dudes sleeping in it! Y'know, I moved house a couple of months ago and I was looking through this trunk full of fliers and realised that I've done so many gigs in my life that I've forgotten full tours!
But this summer already is shaping up to be a good one – and play shows not just attended by two Italians!"

BUTSERFEST IS DRUG- AND ALCOHOL-FREE, AND IT'S £20 FOR THE MOST EXPENSIVE TICKET, HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS TO HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT THAT'S ACCESSIBLE FOR KIDS?
"It's really awesome that there's a safe space for people who don't want – or are too young – to be involved in things like that. But it's just really good that kids can go to a festival like that where there's loads of really good bands playing.
I think it's cool that there's a festival down there, 'cause Portsmouth has a bunch of festivals that are all for older punks and there's not much for younger bands. Loads of local up-and-coming bands play it, too. Every band starts as a young band, so it's really important as a festival-goer to go and see those bands, because you never know when you're gonna see the next really great band."

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIND TIME TO GET YOUR DEBUT ALBUM DONE WITH SUCH A BUSY TOURING SCHEDULE COMING UP?
"We tend to do those things in complete secret, because there's nothing more cringe in the world than bands taking pictures of themselves in small rooms playing guitars and sitting drinking tea. For me, that ruins the magic of listening to a record. We want to have more mystique about us than that, so yeah, I'm not telling you! You'll have to wait and see!"

BUTSERFEST; SEPTEMBER 10; PETERSFIELD QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK

BLACK PEAKS & HECK

THROW BRITAIN'S TWO CRAZIEST BANDS TOGETHER AND YOU'LL GET DOUBLE THE TROUBLE

BLACK PEAKS AND HECK: HOW GREAT A COMBO IS THAT?
WILL GARDNER (*BLACK PEAKS, VOCALS*): "It's going to be *insane* – more than that, it's going to be *carnage*! We're a high-octane, high-energy band ourselves, and HECK are probably an equal, if not greater, performance force of nature to be reckoned with! They draw so much influence from Every Time I Die, The Dillinger Escape Plan and all these other bands that we absolutely love, and they put that all together and make something that is so totally *them*. Having been playing festival sets all summer, we're looking forward to playing a set with a bit more substance. I already can't wait!"
JOHNNY HALL (*HECK, GUITAR*): "We're both going to smash it, 'cause smashing it is what we do! The combo will be calamitously awesome and game-uppingly unforgettable."

WILL YOU BE BRINGING OUT ANY NEW MERCH TO COMMEMORATE THE TOUR?
WILL: "Yes! We're going to have some specific stuff – and something we've talked about, though I can't promise anything, is a small run of either T-shirts or posters that are like 'HECK Vs Black Peaks'. I think we'll do a tour T-shirt with the HECK guys, too, which should be pretty awesome!"

DO YOU HAVE ANY TRADITIONS YOU LIKE TO UPHOLD EVERY SUMMER?
WILL: "I like going on country walks on Sundays and then going for a pint and a roast, which I don't get to do as often as I'd like! I'm a big fan of sitting in beer gardens, and maybe going down to the beach. The beach in Brighton is always lovely in the summer. I'm definitely a summer person!"
JOHNNY: "Being able to raid the discount sunglasses rack in Primark. Feels like you have cataracts, but fuck do you look sharp."

CO-HEADLINE TOUR; SEPTEMBER; HUDDERSFIELD (4), BRISTOL (5), LONDON (7 – 8), SHEFFIELD (9), EDINBURGH (10), ABERDEEN (11), WOLVERHAMPTON (13), CARDIFF (17), SOUTHAMPTON (18)

DON BROCO

PRIORITIES OR AUTOMATIC? PREPARE TO CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF DOING 'DOUBLE DATES' – PLAYING YOUR TWO ALBUMS IN FULL – ON THIS TOUR?
ROB DAMIANI (*VOCALS*): "When you've got two albums, you have to start crossing songs off the set list. You can pick all the singles and all the songs that everyone knows all the words to. That's great, but for me as a music fan, I also love listening to album tracks that you don't get to hear all the time. So, we decided to do two nights in each town, playing each album in its entirety on the different nights."

ARE YOU EXPECTING A DIFFERENT ENERGY ON THE DIFFERENT NIGHTS?
"That's a very interesting question. There's more straight-up rock songs on the first album and more party get-up-and-go songs on Automatic. On a regular show, when they're all mixed up, it's hard to tell the difference, but it will be interesting to see if one night develops more mosh-pits or has more sing-alongs and jump-up-and-down pits or whatever."

WILL YOU BE SQUEEZING IN ANYTHING NON-BROCO RELATED THIS SUMMER?
"Hopefully we'll fit in a week off after the tour. Matt [Donnelly, drums] is planning on going to Disney World, which he's massively excited about, and I think I might go to Spain. It's difficult to plan ahead when you're in a band, but we all enjoy touring in the summer. It's much nicer than the UK in winter, when you have to layer up all the time!"

HEADLINE SHOWS; JULY & AUGUST; MANCHESTER (24 – 25), GLASGOW (26 – 27), NEWCASTLE (29 – 30), BIRMINGHAM (31 – 1), LEEDS (3 – 4), BEDFORD (5 – 6), LONDON (8 – 9), SOUTHAMPTON (10 – 11), NORWICH (13 – 14), BRISTOL (15 – 16)

DEATH SPELLS

FOUR YEARS IN THE MAKING, FRANK'S SIDE-PROJECT KICKS INTO LIFE

HOW DOES TOURING AS A DUO WITH DEATH SPELLS COMPARE TO TOURING WITH A FULL BAND?
FRANK IERO (*VOCALS/PROGRAMMING*): "You can do it in a mini-van, which is crazy to me. I've never been in a band with fewer than four, and the relationship between two is so easy. Decisions are made a lot quicker, though it's harder to fill a stage with just two people! Luckily, James [Dewees] and I are such big personalities that we're able to do it."

DOES THE FILM SCREEN AND VISUAL ASPECT ALSO HELP IN THAT REGARD?
"Absolutely, and that's fun because while I can concentrate on singing and programming, James has to deal with all that as well. I don't know how he does it all! We're meeting up before the tour to collaborate on the visual side of things."

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST SUMMER EVER?
"The summer of 2010, when my girls were born. Becoming a parent was life-changing; things are never the same. It does make touring far more difficult, but I weigh that against the fact that I get to spend more time with them when I am home than other dads with what you could call a 'regular job'!"

HEADLINE TOUR; AUGUST; GLASGOW (9), LONDON (10), BIRMINGHAM (11), MANCHESTER (12)

Troy was deeply unimpressed by the static energy around the venue

MASTODON

THERE WILL BE BLOOD – AND MAYBE SOME NEW MUSIC…

YOU'LL BE HEADLINING STAGES AT BOTH BLOODSTOCK AND READING & LEEDS THIS SUMMER – WHY DO MASTODON HAVE SUCH A SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH THE UK?
TROY SANDERS (*VOCALS/BASS*): "From our first trip over to the UK, we've always felt [especially] warmed and welcomed. That still holds true today. When we're excited to play, the fans embrace that energy and send it back to us. We've loved it from day one."

CAN WE EXPECT TO HEAR NEW SONGS?
"For the past six months, we've been writing and demoing songs for a new record. We're neck deep in new songs, new ideas, new lyrics. So, yeah, we'd like to play some new songs. We don't have any song titles yet, but the material's touching on every base Mastodon have ever crossed."

YOU'VE ALWAYS DELIVERED TOP-DRAWER MERCH, CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANYTHING SPECIAL?
"Of course! When we were fortunate enough to support Iron Maiden a few years ago, we noticed that each city would have it's own specific piece. We thought that was a classy touch, so we've borrowed that idea!"

BLOODSTOCK; AUGUST 11 – 14; DERBYSHIRE CATTON PARK. READING & LEEDS; AUGUST 26 – 28; RICHFIELD AVENUE & BRAMHAM PARK

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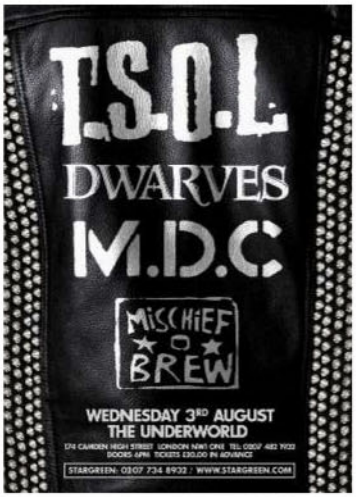

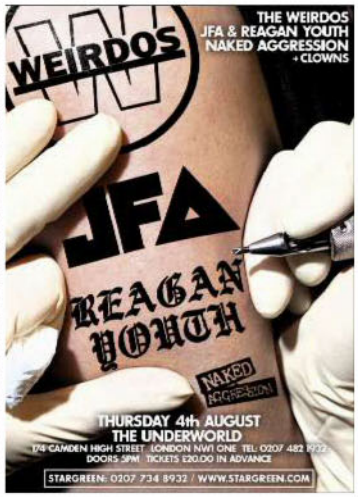

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LIFE AFTER

There's much on Magma, Gojira's latest album, that will make the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. But there's one moment that stands out more than the others. It's on final track Liberation, when Joe Duplantier circles two microphones, raking his thumb against the strings of his acoustic guitar, while his drummer brother, Mario, improvises a beat with his bare hands. It's a moment of primitive expression born from one of the most painful experiences they'd yet encountered – the moment their world was turned upside-down.

"Our mum was having surgery while we were in New York making the album," begins Joe. "We were praying for good news from the hospital. Then we got the phone call saying she wasn't going to make it. Everything went dark."

The news left the siblings – who make up half of a band whose 20-year career has seen them transformed from obscurity to a global force in metal – lost for words. And so, in their darkest hour, they decided it was best to communicate without them. Liberation was the result – although its three-and-a-half minutes of intensely personal expression weren't originally intended for the world's ears.

"We wanted to send our mum a piece of music," says the singer-guitarist. "I was sat there feeling overwhelmed. I hadn't even tuned my guitar; we just started playing and I recorded it for her. There's darkness to it, but there's also a lot of beauty."

Joe and Mario left for France to join their sister by their mother's side, knowing she had refused emergency surgery that still offered few guarantees.

"We went straight to the hospital, and she was in a coma," Joe continues – the pain still evident in his voice. The next 10 days saw the family gathered around the woman that had raised them, surrounding her with love.

"I could barely recognise her. She was in really bad shape. I'd almost been saying goodbye for a long time, but then she would get better. This time, we knew she was doomed; the cancer was getting stronger. Those days we spent together were very dear to me. We took her home because we didn't want her in the hospital, so we had to be with her 24/7 and take care of her. At the same time, we were at peace, because our mum was an incredibly tough person who did everything she could to motivate us to be ourselves; she was our cheerleader. She kept that attitude even through her darkest times. She stayed very brave and courageous in front of her moment of death."

Molten metal: Joe in action

Grieving, the brothers returned to Silver Cord studio, Joe's hand-built New York HQ, where, joined by guitarist Christian Andreu and bassist Jean-Michel Labadie, they found new meaning in the half of an album they'd already written. Not wanting to procrastinate, the band charged full-steam ahead with an urgency that's certainly reflected in the 43 minutes that make up Magma. And while they're still purveyors of music that appeals to the most discerning metal fan, Magma finds the quartet streamlining their technicality in favour of a somewhat cruder, more burgeoning assault.

"Everything felt more sacred," says Joe, on trying to re-evaluate and recalibrate their music after such a traumatic experience. "When you lose someone you love or someone as important as a parent, it makes you realise human existence is so fragile. We got rid of unnecessary things and worries – there was no time for bullshit. Life is too precious to go around wondering what you really want. If you see something, just go for it."

This notion of proactivity has further significance to Gojira's pursuits: inspiring mankind to a state of consciousness beyond musical elevation, guiding us to what could very well be the wake-up call we all need. The band's ties to Sea Shepherd, for example, have made them one of the most prominent campaigners for environmentalism in the metal world.

"We're big fans of what they do, it's very important – we have to preserve what we have left," explains Joe, who converted to a strictly vegan diet a few years ago. "They're labelled terrorists by some people. [I think] sometimes

DEATH

THE CREATION OF **GOJIRA**'S SIXTH ALBUM, MAGMA, SAW THEM FACE THE TOUGHEST PERSONAL CHALLENGE OF THEIR LIVES. BUT, AS **JOE DUPLANTIER** TELLS AMIT SHARMA, GRIEF ALSO GAVE THEM STRENGTH…

PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

you've gotta use certain ways, in extraordinary times. Some people believe the sun will grow so big it will swallow the Earth, wiping out all life, so why should we worry? I, on the other hand, want my kids to see elephants and whales, to know that they're on the planet with us. I have this very pragmatic side that feels if we destroy animals and nature, we will destroy ourselves."

Given that the world's authorities have thus far largely ignored such problems, Joe believes these desperate times are now calling for desperate measures.

"It's becoming extreme. The economy is completely fucked-up, but also the whales are disappearing, the elephants are disappearing. Society is corrupt, there's enough to make you withdraw from all that knowledge. But once you start [processing the damage], you realise how much people just need to open their eyes."

One would suspect that, just like their music, Gojira have always been searching for the truth.

"I care for future generations," he reasons. "I have hope, and I believe there is a chance. We have the key to that future now in our hands. There are no boundaries of time and space, there is a place in the soul that is everywhere and in all time. If we connect with that, we can change each other's lives. What's important is *now*: how we react and what we choose to become will have a resonance."

> **"EVERYTHING FELT SACRED *AFTER MY* MUM DIED…"**
> JOE DUPLANTIER

Coming from a band that have used one of the darkest, most negative periods in their history to inform one of the most positively astonishing metal albums of this year, you'd be wise to heed Joe's words. He is someone who has prevailed against the odds – Gojira's two-decade-long ascent has been one of the most uphill struggles of its kind, fought with red-eyed perseverance. Magma marks what could be their greatest masterpiece yet. Indeed, it is a fire that cannot and shall not be cooled.

***MAGMA* IS OUT NOW VIA ROADRUNNER. GOJIRA PLAY BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL ON AUGUST 13**

The NATURAL ELEMENTS

JOE DISSECTS THAT BREATHTAKING MAGMA COVER ART FOR US…

SMOKE

"I'm not really sure what it means, but it's very complex, whatever it is! And that's a big part of the cover. It's a consequence of the magma, this very hot texture that's about to explode. It's almost the calm before the storm."

VOLCANO

"There's water that shows clearly that this volcano emerged from the sea. That represents the Azores islands. It's a big part of my DNA in a way, because on my mum's side our grandparents were from this island."

SUN

"Without the sun we wouldn't exist. We had green stripes in the smoke, which looked cool, too, but in the end we preferred the biblical representation of white, and the religious sun is in the middle of the volcano. We chose not to put any logo on, to keep it enigmatic."

WATER

"I love the simplicity of the volcano and symbolism behind it, the fact it could destroy us at any time. A volcano can go off and we're all doomed, reduced to ashes! We wanted to create this dark, black volcano to represent that."

Grief gave Joe Duplantier the fire to make Magma

ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR

BENJI MADDEN GOOD CHARLOTTE

HUSBAND, VOICE JUDGE, GUITARIST, TWIN... BENJI'S BUSY. STILL GOT TIME FOR TATTOOS, MIND...

fig.1

MARRIED LIFE IS...

"Great! I think when you find a true partner in life who really has your back, it makes life better. I don't know if I really knew what marriage was about until after I got married, and it's just the best thing. Because the band isn't in the place we were at a few years ago, when we would be on tour and gone for 18 months, it means I get to be home a lot more. We don't have to be apart too much, and because we have so many ways to stay in touch, you never feel that far away from home. We'll send each other pictures of what we're doing, or have little family group chats."

fig.2

MY FIRST GUITAR WAS...

"A gift from a kind man. My family had had a tough year and we weren't going to be getting any presents for Christmas, and this guy, who went to the church in our community, gave my mom a guitar and a bass to give to her sons, so we had something for Christmas. It was a little, cheap electric one called a GTX, and I didn't actually get another one until a while after we started playing as Good Charlotte. I taught myself to play from a little book of church songs he gave her with it, and it had little pictures for how to make the chords. That's literally how I started out."

fig.3

IF I WASN'T IN A BAND I WOULD BE...

"Teaching, I hope. Possibly I'd be doing something illegal, but I'd really like to teach. I don't think I'd be qualified to teach music, but being able to show younger people how shit works, and to be in a role where I could mentor them, would be something I think I'd really enjoy doing. One of the things that got me into music is being able to give encouragement to people, which is what we do with a lot of our songs in Good Charlotte."

fig.4

MY FAVOURITE TATTOO IS...

"My very first one, my GC. That one means a lot to me because it's where I'm from, and, really, I think I have the most love for my oldest tattoos. They're not the best in terms of how they were done, but they just remind me how far I've come. I don't know if I'll ever be 'done' getting tattoos. I'll always be wanting something else when I get into the mood, and I might go a couple of years without getting anything, but when I do it's usually a big piece. Getting my head tattooed was definitely very 'memorable'. I think all tattoos hurt, and that one in particular *really* did!"

fig.5

WRITING WITH OTHER ARTISTS IS...

"Really engaging, because you always get to see a different perspective. Everybody writes a little bit differently, and that's always interesting to me, because I'm forever a student. Every time you write with someone else, their style rubs off on you, and you get to learn another little trick."

fig.6

GROWING UP WITH A TWIN BROTHER WAS...

"Great – we've been best friends ever since we were born. I think we had an advantage in life, having a built-in best friend, and we always did everything together. Throughout school and everything, we always looked out for each other, took care of each other and stood up for each other. It was a given, no-one ever had to ask."

fig.7

BEING A JUDGE ON THE VOICE AUSTRALIA IS...

"Amazing. It's really fun, and it's super-easy, to the point where it's almost too good to be true! You get to work with all of these hopefuls, and everyone who makes it through the various stages is an *insane* singer – the level of talent is crazy. You see how badly they want a shot, and it reminds you of how lucky you are to have had success in this business."

fig.8

THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN BEVERLY HILLS IS...

"It's very safe! You don't have to worry about some of the things that you did in worse neighbourhoods, but, really, I think it's probably that the schools are so amazing that really makes it such a good place. Education was never a big thing in our family, and I think if there's one thing that could have helped me, it's if I had been better educated."

"GETTING MY HEAD TATTOOED REALLY HURT!"

● BENJI MADDEN ●

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: TOM MARTIN

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THIS BAND WANT INTO THE BURY YOU

MEET **NAILS**: ONE OF 2016'S MOST FEARSOME, FEROCIOUS, EXCITING BANDS. VOCALIST **TODD JONES** EXPLAINS WHERE THEIR ANGER WITHIN IS BORN…

The opening title-track of You Will Never Be One Of Us, the brand-new, 5K-rated album from Californians Nails, starts with a discordant swirl of guitars howling like the souls of the damned, with more than half a nod to the classic intro to Slayer's Hell Awaits. Instead of Satanic backmasking, however, a number of voices calmly intone the line, '*You will never be one of us*', before the sledgehammer riff kicks in and aural hell is unleashed. Take a look at the accompanying video and you might spot the likes of Converge frontman Jacob Bannon, Neurosis vocalist/guitarist Scott Kelly and John Baizley of Baroness speaking those words.

So, is this an exclusive club you have to be an underground icon to join? Is there an air of elitism and exclusivity to all this?

"That *title* is about sycophants," sighs Nails singer/guitarist Todd Jones, with the air of a man who knows he'll have to explain this a number of times over the coming weeks and months. "It's about people who try to belong but they don't. It's basically about people who try to attach themselves to something they love for all the wrong reasons – not because they *really* love something."

"I THINK EVERYONE HAS A LOT OF ANGER IN THEM"
TODD JONES

And do you have a sense that sycophancy is becoming more prevalent? Are there more people latching onto the underground scene for what you'd describe as the 'wrong reasons'?

"The title-track is an emotion I sometimes feel," he shrugs. "It's not about a particular instance. It's been prevalent in my experience, but for the most part I think there's a lot of good people involved in hardcore and metal."

Some of those people that Todd Jones sees as the good guys are the ones who appear at the start of You Will Never Be One Of Us. They're not proclaiming a sense of superiority through those words, but declaring the sense of community shared by those who truly love and live the music – while marking out the subtle dividing line that separates those who don't. There are vast differences between the music of Converge, Neurosis and Baroness – and, indeed, Nails – but there are also some common threads of passion and integrity.

"Everybody in that video, apart from Scott Kelly, are people that we know, and who like Nails. But everybody in that video is definitely somebody who's a lifer – they're definitely people who have spent a lot of time contributing to what they do and for the greater good, not for personal gain," says Todd. "I think all those people are really good references for the point that we are trying to get across with that song and that album title."

Todd Jones got into music via a pretty standard route for a kid growing up in the '90s. He was 10 years old in 1991, when Nirvana's Nevermind exploded and Metallica released their eponymous 'Black Album'.

"I worshipped that stuff as a young kid," he recalls. "I'm definitely a product of the 1990s MTV generation, as far as that goes. I found [MTV metal show] Headbangers Ball, and from that I found out about bands like Pantera, Sepultura, Slayer and Megadeth – it's how I got into metal music."

There was, however, another layer of deeper, darker, heavier music waiting beneath the surface. Deicide's blasphemous blastbeats and the grinding, politicised aggression of Napalm Death certainly weren't your standard MTV fodder back then, and finding out about one extreme band naturally led on to another. A teenage Todd immersed himself wholeheartedly in the darkness of the music and the sometimes-incongruous positivity and community of the scene.

When he decided to start contributing with his own musical output, it was initially at the more hardcore end of the spectrum, with Stand Your Ground, Carry On and Californian legends Terror.

When it came to putting Nails together in 2009, Todd wanted to reference the bands that had first dragged him into the underground – bands like Slayer, Discharge and Obituary. The result is a band

If you go down to the woods today… (From left) Taylor Young (drums), Todd Jones (guitars/vocals) and John Gianelli (bass)

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

TS TO DRAG YOU WOODS & ALIVE...

able to channel all the best bits of extreme metal and hardcore into truly ferocious two-minutes-and-under assaults that bite into the brain like a trepanning drill.

Asked if he cares about genre labelling, Todd just shrugs, claiming that he's comfortable with whatever people want to call them. Admittedly not the chattiest of interviewees, he nevertheless comes across as a surprisingly chilled individual. So, from where, we wonder, does he draw the anger that engulfs the listener on You Will Never Be One Of Us, one of the year's most intense albums?

"I think everyone has a lot of anger in them," Todd reasons. "Just being a human being and living your life is not an easy task, but [the anger] does come out at different times. I can't just sit down and play guitar and write a Nails song, because sometimes it comes and sometimes it doesn't. I don't necessarily need to get myself into a certain mind-set. When I have something I need to do, I try to get it done and it just comes naturally."

The appeal of hard, aggressive music is, he says, something that's hard-wired into his brain, and getting to perform his own onstage remains one of the most gratifying aspects of his life – a million miles away from the IT job he also holds down to support himself ("I have a family, so I don't want to be living on a friend's couch," he says). Because when it comes to the music he makes with Nails, there's no doubting the passion and commitment he bleeds from every pore. Todd Jones is one of you, and he couldn't be happier about it.

YOU WILL NEVER BE ONE OF US IS OUT NOW VIA NUCLEAR BLAST. NAILS TOUR THE UK IN NOVEMBER – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO

HARMONY CORRUPTION

TODD RECOMMENDS THREE OF THE MOST VIOLENT NEW BANDS AROUND...

FULL OF HELL

"They're from Maryland in the U.S.. They're a grindcore band with a couple of albums out and they're going to be putting a new one out on Profound Lore next year. We'll be hitting the UK with them in November, so you'll have the perfect chance to see why they're such a great band."

Facebook.com/fullofhell

GATECREEPER

"Gatecreeper are a new band from Arizona who play great, aggressive music, and hopefully we'll get a chance to play with them soon. Getting to play with other bands you respect is one of the most gratifying things about being in this position."

Facebook.com/gatecreeper

MANHUNT

"This is a band from Australia and they're more of a power-violence band. They sound like Crossed Out and Infest. They're from Brisbane and they have a couple of seven-inch EPs and an album. They're young but they're really good and that's a band I'd like for Nails to tour with."

Facebook.com/manhuntpunk

THE SONGS THAT SAVED MY LIFE

WHAT A SURPRISE – SATAN'S MATE AND BLACK METAL TALISMAN NERGAL SAYS 'YES' TO SLAYER AND 'NO' TO REGGAE. QUITE FORCEFULLY TO BOTH, ACTUALLY…

THIS WEEK: NERGAL, BEHEMOTH

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME THINK OF HOME IS…

WASTED YEARS

IRON MAIDEN

"There are a lot of songs I'm super-sentimental about. When I hear one – like Wasted Years – on the radio, I get this image of me sitting in my parents' room, watching the black-and-white TV, because it was played quite often in the '80s, and it feels like where I come from. The line, *'I close my eyes and think of home, another city goes by in the night'*, also has grown to be more applicable to my adult life on tour."

FIND IT: Somewhere In Time (1986)

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO BE A MUSICIAN WAS…

BLOODLUST

VENOM

"Venom were one of the first metal bands I listened to, I had The Singles 80-86, which to this day I still consider to be the ultimate Venom release – it gets down to what they were all about. I clearly remember playing air guitar in front of the mirror to Bloodlust, pretending I was onstage, and I had a concert on VHS that I would blast every other day. I knew every moment from start to finish."

FIND IT: The Singles 80-86 (1986)

THE SONG I WOULD LIKE TO COVER IS…

JESUS OF THE MOON

NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS

"We're not a band that does a lot of covers, but if we did one we'd definitely pick something from outside the metal genre. We did David Bowie's Hallo Spaceboy back in the day, but now I would rather look to Joy Division or Bauhaus, or Nick Cave. I'd want us to really challenge ourselves, and I think I'd maybe want to make it at least partially a joke. I think covering this one could be pretty funny."

FIND IT: Dig, Lazarus, Dig! (2008)

THE SONG I WISH I HADN'T RECORDED IS…

CONJURATION OV SLEEP DAEMONS

BEHEMOTH

"I can appreciate every song we've made – they're like my children – so wishing one wasn't 'born' is not something I would like to do. I wouldn't have put them out if I didn't believe in them, or think they were good enough to go on a record. I think this is still a pretty good song, but it's like a compilation of riffs that we turned into a song without having an actual vision for what we wanted it to be. When I look at it now, I always ask myself what I had in mind when I was making it, because it's lacking artistic direction."

FIND IT: Conjuration (2003)

> ***"THERE ARE PLENTY OF SONGS THAT MAKE ME CRY…"***
>
> **NERGAL**

THE LAST SONG I LISTENED TO WAS…

FLYING THROUGH THE SMOKE

NEW MODEL ARMY

"I'm a big New Model Army fan, and I'm eagerly waiting for their new record [Winter], which comes out in August. Whenever a band I love have a record coming out soon, I'll go back and listen to the last couple they've done – I totally love New Model Army's last two albums, too. I'm just building up my excitement. I went to the gym today and this was the last song to play before I finished. I love it!"

FIND IT: Eight (2000)

THE SONG WITH THE GREATEST LYRICS EVER IS…

HURT

JOHNNY CASH

"Obviously this was written by Trent Reznor, so he takes the credit for that, but it's Johnny Cash's interpretation that most gets me. The lyrics are perfectly written and conceived. It's pure poetry, and it's heartbreaking – it conveys such fear and pain. I know this song so very well, and every time I listen to it I have the same reaction. It's something I've felt many times in my life, so I can really relate to it."

FIND IT: American IV: The Man Comes Around (2002)

THE SONG I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR IS…

O FATHER O SATAN O SUN!

BEHEMOTH

"This is the closing song on our last record [The Satanist]. It's big, it's epic and it's just super-important to me. It felt so very special when we were recording it. I remember when I was putting it down in the studio I was literally having shivers going down my spine, and for a long while after it was finished I would feel the same every time I listened to it. It's had a huge impact on me."

FIND IT: The Satanist (2014)

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

beat rate 98 Bpm Eog | 117 63 heart 85 | high normal low

THE WORST SONG EVER WRITTEN IS…

SUNSHINE REGGAE

LAID BACK

"I'm pretty well known for being a reggae-hater. Reggae makes the world worse – it's just fucking wrong. So, Sunshine Reggae is one that I'm always going to fucking hate. I think whoever wrote this song should be killed. Everything about it is so bad – in fact, it should be fucking *illegal*. The only exemption to my reggae hatred is Bob Marley, who wrote some amazing songs. He's fine. The rest should all be destroyed."

FIND IT: Keep Smiling (1983)

THE SONG YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ON MY IPOD IS…

MANNISH BOY

MUDDY WATERS

"I've been listening to lots of old blues stuff lately. I can imagine a 15-year-old metal fan feeling curious and putting this song on because they're curious about what Nergal's listening to and thinking, 'What the fuck is *that*?' What I love about it is that it's raw, it's honest, it has great lyrics and it's just so well-written. Also, after really listening to it I realised that Glenn Danzig was ripping it off on his song The One!"

FIND IT: Electric Mud (1968)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY IS…

IN MY DARKEST HOUR

MEGADETH

"There are plenty of songs that make me cry – Nobody's Baby Now by Nick Cave, Ain't No Sunshine by Bill Withers is definitely one. But I clearly remember that the first time a band managed to really fill my eyes with tears was Megadeth with this song. I'm not a big Megadeth fan, but I put So Far, So Good… So What! on and started going through the lyric sheet, and this one just struck me in the heart. It captures loneliness so vividly."

FIND IT: So Far, So Good… So What! (1988)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO STAGE-DIVE IS…

ANGEL OF DEATH

SLAYER

"*Every* time I hear this song it gets me! I could name 50 other Slayer songs that trigger a similar reaction, but literally *everything* about this song just makes you want to fucking run and rage. Every part is just amazing – the way it explodes at the start, the abrasiveness of the riffs, Tom's [Araya, vocals/bass] vocals, the drums throughout, the slower riff which just kicks ass, and then it comes back in fast… It's the perfect soundtrack to a riot!"

FIND IT: Reign In Blood (1986)

THE BEST SONG EVER WRITTEN IS…

LONDON CALLING

THE CLASH

"There are a hundred songs in every genre I could pick, but to me this is definitely one of the ultimate songs out there, one that just stands on its own. It's so fully realised from start to finish. It's magic, absolutely unique and I like it when bands push at the boundaries of the genre they're in. The Clash went from sounding so punk rock to coming up with this, and it has stayed with me all this time."

FIND IT: London Calling (1979)

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KKKKK

THE MOST DANGEROUS BAND IN THE WORLD BRING CHICAGO TO ITS SHA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-KNEES

GUNS N' Roses have named this tour 'Not In This Lifetime', and, to be honest, it's surprising we've got this far. Even up to the moment Axl Rose strutted up the steps to the stage at LA's Troubadour on April 1 for his first show with Slash and Duff McKagan since 1994 (a 22-year wait trumped just last week, on July 6, by drummer Steven Adler rejoining the band for the first time since 1990 with a two-song cameo in Cincinnati), it was a brave soul who'd put money on it going ahead. Too much history, too many egos, too much pooh-poohing the idea, even for the promise of millions. But, confirming that nobody can ever predict his actions, much less think that anything other than Axl himself can dictate his behaviour, Mr Rose not only took the stage that night, he and Guns *owned* it. This wasn't the stroppy, troublemaking Axl of recent times: this was the electric, livewire singer who, along with Slash and Duff, made Guns the most dangerous band in the world. We thought we'd lost him. And hell, as he did throughout his recent stint fronting AC/DC, he's even started smiling, in front of 60,000 people who never thought they'd see the day.

Before that, however, Alice In Chains. Through Them Bones, Check My Brain and Would?, the Seattle legends are colossal, with guitarist Jerry Cantrell proving that Slash isn't the only six-stringer here with an enviable ability to seemingly produce jaw-dropping riffs out of his arse.

Except that, as good as they are, AIC cannot do what Guns do with just the simple bass intro to opener It's So Easy. They sound phenomenal. Slash looks The Shit as he peels off the song's greasy leads and Duff's almighty bass is pure power. But it's when Axl emerges like a Tasmanian Devil in a leather jacket that things properly kick off. Now free of the leg brace and throne he used while fronting AC/DC, he may not quite shimmy and slink the way he did back in 1992, but be under no illusion: across three hours and no less than five wardrobe changes, Axl Rose is reminding everyone that he's one of the most exciting, energetic and commanding frontmen you will ever see. Still.

And this is no mere nostalgia-fest, with songs from the Slash-and-Duff-free Chinese Democracy sitting easy next to Mr Brownstone and Out Ta Get Me, and banged out just as hard. As are storming covers of The Who's The Seeker and The Damned's aptly-titled New Rose.

This tour of the U.S. is all that's 'officially' in Guns' diary for now. But, as it was back in the '80s, Guns N' Roses remain a band too explosive, too exciting to not take over the world again.

WORDS: CRAIG DANIELS **PHOTOS:** KATARINA BENZOVA

GUNS N' ROSES

SOLDIER FIELD, CHICAGO
01.07.16

IT'S SO EASY
MR BROWNSTONE
CHINESE DEMOCRACY
WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
DOUBLE TALKIN' JIVE
ESTRANGED
LIVE AND LET DIE
ROCKET QUEEN
YOU COULD BE MINE
NEW ROSE
THIS I LOVE
CIVIL WAR
COMA
SWEET CHILD O' MINE
BETTER
OUT TA GET ME
NOVEMBER RAIN
KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR
NIGHTRAIN

DON'T CRY
THE SEEKER
PARADISE CITY

Axl bloody loved confetti at weddings

ROCK WERCHTER

WERCHTER, BELGIUM.

01 – 03.07.16

SHAKE, WAFFLE AND ROLL AS BELGIUM'S BIGGEST FEST TURNS 40

■ WHATEVER RECENT political differences have divided us, two things will always unite the UK and Belgium: music and wet weather. Rock Werchter – the Belgian answer to Reading & Leeds, celebrating its 40th birthday with Paul McCartney, Editors and Florence + The Machine among more K!-friendly rock fare – has both in abundance. Fortunately, **BLACKBERRY SMOKE (KKK)** bring sunny Southern rock that cuts through Friday's Flemish drizzle, and when Ain't Much Left of Me morphs smoothly into Bob Marley's Three Little Birds, it's better than any raincoat. Instead of rain, it's smoke machines that plague **AT THE DRIVE-IN (KKKKK)** mouthpiece Cedric Bixler-Zavala, who rages, "It's like Mad Max up here!" ATD-I evidently live on Fury Road, though, as Cedric smashes amplifiers while the band's hardcore squall wreaks havoc. Fucks given? Positively zero.

It may be 21 years since **THE OFFSPRING (KKKK)** last rocked Werchter, but they've returned with more hits than you can shake a white guy at. Massive mudslinging sing-alongs during Want You Bad and Self Esteem ensure they won't wait two decades to return, either. **RAMMSTEIN (KKKK)** hit similarly hard, executing Herzeleid and Ich Will's industrial sturm und drang with martial precision. Occasionally, despite flaming chest pieces and molten intensity, their mechanical indifference leaves this crowd cold, but Rammstein can still chalk it up as a fiery victory.

Saturday rolls around, and even the sun's come out to see **THE STRUTS (KKKKK)**. Like Freddie Mercury and Marc Bolan rolled into one, frontman Luke Spiller screams and shakes his moneymaker in a golden jacket as sparkling as his band's glam riffs. It's really little wonder he recently made our 50 Greatest Rockstars list, watching his triumphant showmanship kick-start a dance party to Kiss This' irresistible groove. Of course, **RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS (KKKK)** are groove Godzillas. New tune Dark Necessities gets a warm reception, with Josh Klinghoffer adding UFO guitar noises (although occasionally his effect-laden solos sound like he's gargling bees), but it's easily Californication's huge choruses and Give It Away's unstoppable funk that send Werchter wild.

The wildest of wild things arrive on Sunday, though, as **IGGY POP (KKKKK)** foams at the microphone like a mean dog. Although without the Josh Homme Band, Gardenia's reptilian slink proves shows this indestructible dog has learnt new tricks, though he also visibly relishes tearing into crowd-bouncer The Passenger. And what weirder way to end than with **SKUNK ANANSIE (KKKK)**? "We've always fought intolerance," declares captivating frontwoman Skin. "So, from now on, I consider myself European." And the audience are right with her, literally supporting her as she rides Weak's volcanic rhythms to its triumphant close. Here's to 40 more years of rocking out together, Werchter, whatever the weather.

WORDS: JAMES MACKINNON **PHOTOS:** STEFAAN TEMMERMAN, JORUS BULCKENS, ROB WALBERS

STAR SHOUT!

LUKE SPILLER

(THE STRUTS, VOCALS)

YOU GUYS JUST CAME OVER FROM AMERICA. GLAD TO BE BACK IN EUROPE?

"Yeah, we flew from New York two days ago and I haven't slept a wink since! The show was a lot of fun, though, and I think we left our mark. We've worked our whole adolescence to get to this point, so you've got to put your money where your mouth is – no matter what."

WHO'D BE ON YOUR OWN DREAM FEST?

"For a good festival, I think you need dancing and sing-alongs. So, I'd get Slade and James Brown to warm up the crowd. They'd get everyone moving, and then Queen would provide the big sing-alongs. Then AC/DC to finish the night off. The whole festival would be triumphant!"

A cunning use of Cheese Strings by The Struts, there…

The World Jenga Championships were only for the elite

We'll never know why Anthony Kiedis came dressed as Luigi

The rain played havoc with ATD-I's barnets

Till Lindemann didn't look properly at the BooHoo sizing chart before ordering

BIFFY CLYRO

ELLIPSIS *(14TH FLOOR)*

KKKK

ONE OF BRITAIN'S BEST BANDS DELIVER A SHORT, RAZOR-SHARP FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR TWO-DISC OPUS

ASK ANYONE who makes animals out of balloons for a living; there's only so far you can inflate something, before it pops. Truth be told, Green Day are still suffering a creative hangover from American Idiot, 12-years-old this year, and which remains their creative peak. My Chemical Romance were so drained by lugging The Black Parade behind the globe, Gerard Way spent time that followed sobbing, lost, sat in the dark in the driving seat of his parked car. Biffy Clyro – by strange coincidence, labelmates of both the above – took a 78-minute-long double-album called Opposites to the top of the charts three years ago; they know a little about this themselves. Promotion for album seven, Ellipsis – just the one disc this time – has seen their singer, Simon Neil, candidly speak of a breakdown that followed the massive undertaking of album six. His head, he bleats manically on new song Animal Style, '*is like a fucking carnival*'… Anyone who's ever found themselves pushed to the brink won't find it too difficult to relate to these words.

Simon's also spoken lately of a desire to return to the source of Biffy Clyro: the familial trio that started out life as a weirdo art-rock group in Kilmarnock just over two decades ago, and yet somehow conquered the British mainstream at the point in their career where many of their peers were giving up. Okay, let's be clear in saying that there's nothing as odd or abrasive as Toys, Toys, Toys, Choke, Toys, Toys, Toys to be found on the tracklisting of Ellipsis. But comparatively, this is the most melody-focused they've sounded since Puzzle. Flammable might start out with a slash of Shellac-y guitar, its treble turned all the way up, but at its heart it's just a luscious alt.rock song. Likewise, Friends And Enemies might have a sting in its tail – '*With a friend as good as you, who needs enemies?*' purrs Simon (the nicest man in rock has teeth, filed to needles!) – but it's not a song that forsakes the beauty in simplicity, by lashing a load of strings and, God forbid, bagpipes atop. The gang-vocal coda that leads the song out, it's worth mentioning, is a happy compromise between musical growth and indulgent gluttony. Two songs later, the fragile, haunting Re-arrange – an open letter of thanks to Simon's wife for always being there – is the most beautiful song Biffy Clyro have ever written. '*I wrote a hundred songs to make sense of the meaningless*', he sings, as if inking the words into his journal. '*I'll undo them all if you help me correct this mess*'.

This new/old hybrid Biffy Clyro is a good thing. There have been countless arguments about this in the Kerrang! office, such is the beloved status of the band. But for this writer at least, Ellipsis is the band's best album since Puzzle; an album it must be said that this writer thought was perfect in every conceivable way. Whether you agree or not might depend on your love of the grand. Either way, it's unquestionable that this is the album that Biffy Clyro needed to make now. These songs are going to sound vital at Reading & Leeds.

Why no 5Ks? Well, there's a song on it towards the end, Small Wishes, that sounds a little bit like the theme to Snoopy. Other than that, mind, Ellipsis is perfect.

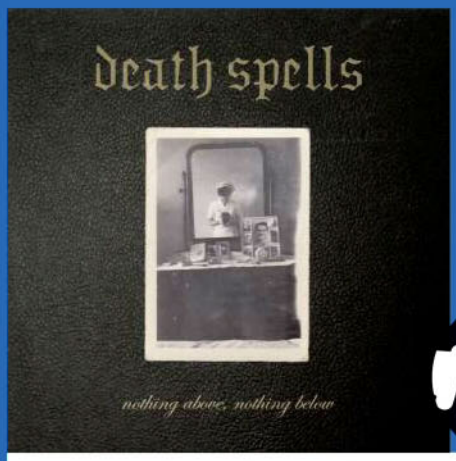
DOWNLOAD: Re-arrange, Flammable.
FOR FANS OF: Nirvana, Muse, Pixies.
JAMES McMAHON

RATINGS

KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

"I'M GIVING PEOPLE WHO HAVE UPSET ME WHAT-FOR"

SIMON NEIL



TRACK BY TRACK

DEATH SPELLS

NOTHING ABOVE, NOTHING BELOW *(HASSLE)*

KKKK

FRANK IERO AND JAMES DEWEES PROVE YOU DON'T NEED GUITARS TO MAKE A BIG NOISE

1 DILUTED
'*I walk through this hideous world without fear of regret / I am the beacon, the forest fire*'. As the long-gestating album from Frank Iero's Death Spells finally spills from the speakers in a cinematic swirl of chiming keys and poetic dialogue, you get the feeling this trip really could go anywhere.

2 WHY IS LOVE SO DISASTROUS?
Right, who ordered an abrasive tune with machine-gun rhythms!? It's here.

3 HATE UNCONDITIONAL
Don't trust the lulling keys for one second – they're a trap to lure you into a big, noise-drenched groove.

4 CHOKE ON ONE ANOTHER
This one has more of a dance beat. You can just picture day-glo sticks on the EBM dance floor…

5 WHERE ARE MY FUCKING PILLS?
…Whereas this is pure fucked-up noise that sounds like it was dredged from the depths of Al Jourgensen's soul.

6 QUAAINTERLUDE
Ah, a sonorous piano interlude that could soundtrack Donnie Darko…

7 END OF LIFE
…Which segues into End Of Life, which has a haunting quality delivered with a wilful sense of weirdness.

8 HELL ALL-AMERICAN
Behold: pulsing dance beats that could have come straight from Trent Reznor's big bag of cyber-goth grooves.

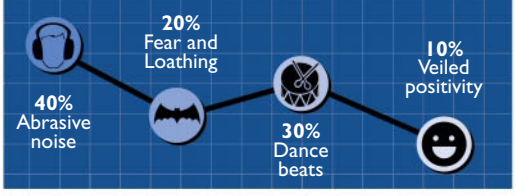
9 HYPNOTIC SPELLS
This interlude marks a stylistic shift from the full-on industrial noise assaults. This is more disturbingly trippy than it is face-peeling.

10 FANTASTIC BASTARDS
And this even has a jaunty beat and sing-along hooks! The crying children and themes of abuse stop it getting too comfortable, mind.

11 UNDERNEATH IT ALL
The off-kilter grooves are deliberately out of step. It sounds like the soundtrack to the most head-jarring avant garde film never made.

12 I DON'T KNOW MUCH, BUT I KNOW I LOATHE YOU
It all ends on a slow grind of distortion that leaves you feeling like you need a wash. This is not an easy album to listen to, but it is a brilliantly mangled piece of art.

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF…



WORDS: SAM LAW

THE INSIDER
SIMON NEIL
(VOCALS/GUITAR)

YOU STARTED TO DOUBT YOURSELF AT THE START OF WRITING. WHY?
"After Opposites I had a tizzy. Loads of bad things happened, Storm Thorgerson [legendary album designer] died, my gran died, and I started to dry up. We were trying to start writing, and we expected things to be brilliant straight away, which they weren't. My wife and I went away for a couple of months, and I was able to sort my shit out and have a bit of time away from the band. When I came back, I felt ready."

HOW DOES ONE FOLLOW UP A COLOSSAL DOUBLE ALBUM LIKE OPPOSITES?
"Well, we've made our shortest record. That was deliberate. With Opposites, we made a double album where everything was just right, but it was over an hour long, it was a lot to take in. Ellipsis is short, to the point."

WHAT THEMES ARE YOU DEALING WITH ON THE ALBUM?
"I'm coming out fighting. I've explored quite a bit lyrically over the years, but this time I'm giving people who have upset me what-for, and I'm saying that I know who I am, here are my strengths, here are my flaws, it is what it is. For the first time, I'm saying, 'Fuck it, you've pissed me off so I'm going to fucking give you what-for.'"

TTNG

DISAPPOINTMENT ISLAND *(SARGENT HOUSE)*

KKK

REJUVENATED ALT.ROCKERS AMP UP THE MUSICALITY ON THIRD ALBUM

REDUCED TO a trio and shortening their diabolical name This Town Needs Guns to the slightly more palatable TTNG, this gently ear-tickling band have made a cleverly engaging comeback. It's not a 'big' listen, and there are no killer tunes, but seeking such obvious moments would be missing the point. The brothers Collis (guitarist Tim and drummer Chris) and frontman Henry Tremain like to amble along, spreading mellow fairy dust and occasionally – such as at the conclusion of Whatever, Whenever – chucking in some big guitars to stop you nodding off. These are achingly emotional pop songs, but it's in their math rock-bordering jazzy rhythms that TTNG really impress. It's all peace and love (man), so leave the guns at home.

DOWNLOAD: A Chase Of Sorts.
FOR FANS OF: Arctic Monkeys, Incubus.

STEVE BEEBEE

BLOOD RED THRONE

UNION OF FLESH AND MACHINE *(SPINEFARM)*

KKKK

NORWEGIAN DEATH METAL MONARCHS ROAR BACK TO TERMINATE YOUR EARS

EVER WONDERED what cybernetic T-800s would sound like if they started dealing in death metal instead of just, well, regular death? Well, this eviscerating, well-titled eighth LP from Norwegian deathsters Blood Red Throne gets pretty damn close to realising that dream. There's plenty of living tissue on show, a writhing, muscular bloodlust that pumps through frenzied cuts like Proselyte Virus and Exposed Mutation, but it's wrapped tight round a razor-edged metal endoskeleton, with the outstanding, technical excellence of execution on Primal Recoil mercilessly hitting the mark. For musicians who've too-long toiled in the ashen wake of associated legends Emperor and Satyricon, this makes for a fittingly bloodstained 18th-year coming-of-age, too – one that screams, "Come with us if you want to kill!"

DOWNLOAD: Proselyte Virus.
FOR FANS OF: Cannibal Corpse, Emperor.

SAM LAW

GUTTERMOUTH

GOT IT MADE *(RUDE)*

KKK

POTTY-MOUTHED PUNKS RETURN FROM THE WILDERNESS, AS RUDE AS EVER

GUTTERMOUTH ARE no strangers to making a splash. The Orange County punks were once thrown off Warped Tour (for publically ridiculing My Chemical Romance, among other crimes) and banned from the whole of Canada for naked shenanigans. This is their first new material in a decade, but it's unlikely to have the world quivering in outrage. The cod-offensiveness is still there, and Old Man could be a companion piece to their own mother-baiting Lipstick, while A Punk Rock Tale Of Woe essentially tells Mohawk-sporting old punks to stop moaning about how unfair everything is. The guitars are raw and Mark Adkins' vocals are as bratty as ever, but the songs just aren't quite arresting enough. They're back, but will anyone notice?

DOWNLOAD: Freckles The Pony,
FOR FANS OF: NOFX, The Vandals.

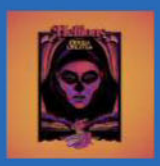
PAUL TRAVERS

LYRIC OF THE WEEK

'Gotta keep my feet moving / I'm looking up at the sky!'

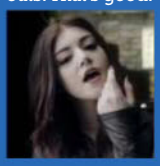
Do YOU want to learn how to dance like Good Charlotte? Well, handily, they've included very clear instructions with their new single. It doesn't get much more complicated than keeping your feet moving while sticking your head back to look upward, but you'll be the lord of the dance floor.

BAND: Good Charlotte
SONG: Life Changes
ALBUM: Youth Authority



SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

Far out, man. The new Hellions album, Opera Oblivia, looks like the poster for a mad '70s biker film that features psychedelic freak-outs. That's good.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

WASTELAND, AGAINST THE CURRENT

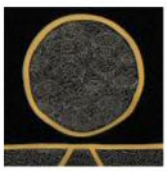
Chrissy Costanza's lost in the woods, someone get her a map. Or keep your ears open for her voice and rescue her if you hear her singing. No, really, do, there's some shocking statistics about bands getting lost in forests on video shoots. Normally black metal bands, but, you know…

THE FALL OF TROY

OK *(SELF-RELEASED)*

KKK

WASHINGTON PROG-CORE CREW REWRITE THE MUSICAL RULEBOOK. AGAIN



THE FALL Of Troy have never been just an 'okay' band. To many, the Mukilteo trio are undisputed masters of math-rock, the kings of intricacy, the lords of all things widdly and complex, while still fitting the vague description 'post-hardcore'. Still, to some, the precision, explosiveness and sheer complexity on show often proves exhausting. On OK, they're exclusively addressing those who already care, and this free release simply acknowledges the investment of their long-serving fans. By juxtaposing the aggressiveness of Love Six and Inside Out with the unorthodox grooves of Saviour and Side By Side, OK is TFOT going all-out with the experimentation. In our books, that can only be a positive thing.

DOWNLOAD: Inside Out.
FOR FANS OF: Glassjaw, Heck, '68.

JESSICA BRIDGEMAN

The Fall Of Troy

THRAWSUNBLAT

METACHTHONIA *(IGNIFERA)*

KKKK

EX-WOODS OF YPRES MAN RETURNS WITH STUNNING THIRD OUTING

CANADA'S THRAWSUNBLAT are by no means the only band to mix ice-encrusted black metal riffs with pastoral themes and maritime shanties. But they are, by some distance, the best. Even by their own high standards, Metachthonia – that's "the epoch after the age of the Earth" FYI – stands proud as their defining outing. Swollen with distortion, sentiment and folky embellishments, these songs are meditative listens – look no further than the celestial philosophising on She Who Names The Stars, as 'Blat mastermind Joel Violette sings, *'Do you not take comfort in seeing the same stars as your ancestors*?'. Bold, beautiful and searing, this isn't just one of the best albums to emerge from metal's underground this year, it's one of the best albums of 2016 period.

DOWNLOAD: Hypochthonic Remnants.
FOR FANS OF: Woods Of Ypres, NOBMPS.

GEORGE GARNER

THE INTERRUPTERS

SAY IT OUT LOUDY *(HELLCAT)*

KKK

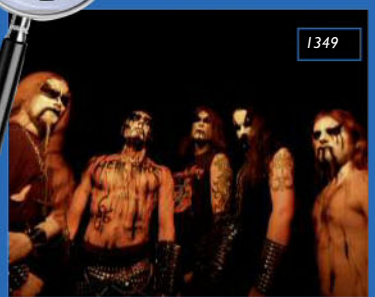
TIM ARMSTRONG-APPROVED SKA-PUNKS PROVE THERE'S LIFE IN SKANKING YET

WERE WE not two decades removed from their genre's heyday, The Interrupters would be massive. Not only do they have the legitimacy that comes from having Rancid's Tim Armstrong behind the production desk, but with songs as irresistible as By My Side, their hook-laden, 2-Tone-inspired ska-punk just happens to be about as good as the genre has ever been. It's a huge testament to the band that, despite playing such an of-its-time genre, the songs on this album never sound especially dated – something that's helped to no end by The Interrupters' especially pertinent political messages throughout.

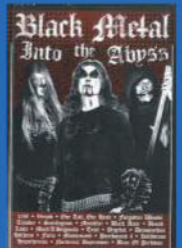
DOWNLOAD: By My Side.
FOR FANS OF: Rancid, The Specials.

RYAN DE FREITAS

SPOTLIGHT ON... BOOKS!



HEADING OFF on a nice, sunny beach holiday? You'll need a good book to keep you occupied while you roast under the sun's glare. Just the right time, then, to wade into **BLACK METAL: INTO THE ABYSS (KKKK)** by Brit writer and black-metal nerd Dayal Patterson, the third of his peerless series of books examining the scene. You can either bask in the fiery furnace of Hell, or be cooled down by the icy snows of Scandinavia, depending on your mood, as the author delves into the black metal underground



ON THE STEREO

1 SET IT OFF – SOMETHING NEW
'Hey, you wanna hear something new by Set It Off?' 'Sure, what's it called?' 'Something New.' 'Yeah, I know it's something new, but what's it called…?'

2 SECT – SCOURGE OF EMPIRE
What does Andy Hurley do when he's on Fall Out Boy downtime? He relaxes by forming punishing hardcore bands. Why, what did you think he did?

3 DESCENDENTS – VICTIM OF ME
A sub-two-minute blast of dorky punk from the masters of all things dorky and punky. Makes everyone else sound like Tool.

4 DOE – SINCERE
Okay, who ordered the catchy alt.rock? 'Cause we've got loads of it here.

5 FOREVER NEVER – WE WON'T SAVE THE WORLD
Modesty from the FN boys, here. Proper heavy tune, mind…

NEEDTOBREATHE

HARD LOVE *(ATLANTIC)*

KKK

SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN ROCKERS BRING THE HOOKS AND THE HAPPY

TO SAY that Needtobreathe take the sentiment 'go big or go home' to heart is something of an understatement, since the anthems of Hard Love are unlikely to fit in even the most massive venues. Though the occasional sonic similarity they bear to Matchbox 20 might have you understandably jabbing the skip button, the rousing title-track, the glam-rock of Great Night and the Foxy Shazam-esque When I Sing are ridiculously enlivening. To put it bluntly, buttocks that remain un-twitched in their presence are sad buttocks indeed. When things get a little more intimate – as with the ballad-ish No Excuses and classy Let's Stay Home Tonight – there's a real sincerity on display, and Needtobreathe make for a fine listen indeed.

DOWNLOAD: Hard Love.
FOR FANS OF: Twenty One Pilots, Paramore, Against The Current.

DAN SLESSOR

RAGING SPEEDHORN

LOST RITUAL *(SELF-RELEASED)*

KKKK

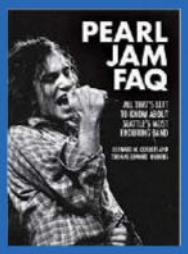
STRAIGHT OUTTA CORBY, THE UK'S ANGRIEST SLUDGE CREW MAKE LOUD RETURN

AS THIS century began, Raging Speedhorn ram-raided the UK rock scene like a particularly lairy riot. Two albums of sludge sealed their reputation before changes in line-up and sound sealed their fate. What a joy, then, to have them back with (most of) the original line-up and fire in their bellies again. Like a bouncy castle in a crack den, their best tunes balanced aggro vibes with sheer exuberance, and this is what's been rediscovered on Lost Ritual: these 10 bangers are instantly identifiable as pure, uncut Speedhorn. They're also one of the few bands who are simultaneously stupid and clever enough to write a Lemmy tribute called, simply, Motorhead. Welcome back, you noisy bastards.

DOWNLOAD: Shit Outta Luck.
FOR FANS OF: Iron Monkey, Conan.

OLLY THOMAS

through interviews with such luminaries as Norwegian terrors 1349, folkish black metallers Helheim and the first-ever interview with Brazilian legends Mystifier. It's devilishly good, but if you're after something a little less diabolic, then **PEARL JAM FAQ (KKKK)** is what you're after. Promising 'All That's Left To Know About Seattle's Most Enduring Band', you



certainly get a lot of Jam for your buck, with the grunge legends' songs and career examined in microscopic detail. True, only the biggest fan needs to know this much about PJ's touring schedules from the turn of the century, but as an exhaustive work on such a beloved band, you won't find another book that puts them under as exacting a microscope as this. In the case of both titles, however, both newbies and those more dedicated heads who thought they knew it all will find plenty to chew on here. Although you shouldn't chew books.

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

Garbage

GARBAGE (MUSHROOM, 1995)

HOW NIRVANA'S PRODUCER FORMED A BAND AND DEFIED THE CRITICS TO BECOME A GLOBAL SUCCESS STORY

DESPITE BEING named after some negative feedback they received when they initially formed, Garbage's 1995 debut album has weathered the passage of time remarkably well. At the time of their formation, curiosity surrounding the band was at fever pitch, not least because their drummer, Butch Vig, had produced Nirvana's Nevermind. Upon its release in 1995, their debut album went double platinum in the UK, U.S. and Australia, and sold four million copies around the world. It also turned Scottish singer Shirley Manson – a frontwoman with a voice able to match the mysterious charms of the music – into an icon. Fresh from releasing their sixth studio album, Strange Little Birds, last month, Shirley reflects on the debut record which changed her life and put Garbage on the map…

WHAT WAS IT LIKE RECORDING THE ALBUM?
SHIRLEY MANSON (*VOCALS*):
"We made that first record on analogue tape – that right there is a massive change. Then by the time we recorded our second record, Version 2.0 – which arguably is the first record to have been entirely produced digitally – the whole world had changed. The technological revolution had completed changed the landscape. But that first abum, we did it all on tape, but we were really making a record that used a lot of sounds and technology that sounded like it was digital. It was quite ahead of its time, in a way."

ARE THERE ANY MOMENTS ON THE RECORD YOU'RE PERSONALLY PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?
"The last song on the record, Milk, was actually the first song that I ever wrote. So, I guess that was my proudest moment. That I'd come up with an idea, I'd introduced it to the band and they loved it, that was the first time that had ever happened to me in my life. So, I have really fond connections with that song, because that was the beginning of my creative life."

AT THE TIME, YOUR DEBUT SPENT OVER A YEAR IN THE CHARTS. ARE CHART POSITIONS IMPORTANT TO YOU AS A GROUP TODAY?
"The charts don't mean the same thing any more, it's a completely devolved concept. It's always great to be in the charts but it doesn't really mean anything any more. There are millions of bands the world over that have really healthy careers [but] are not taken into account by the official measuring tapes."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ALBUM TODAY?
"I love that record. It was the beginning of my life and my career, really. It kicked everything off, and I guess we're somewhat perplexed that it's still held in such high regard at this point. We never imagined that that would happen – that we would be the proud creators of a record that seems to have lasted the course of time. We're proud of it. We had an amazing 20th anniversary tour for it last year, which was incredibly celebratory for us and blew our minds. We never imagined we'd have a career still, over two decades after it came out."

Kerrang! Radio play it all at 10pm, July 14!

WORDS: JESSICA BRIDGEMAN

K!LOBBER

MU$T HAV£S

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!

This snapback reps that killer town of Milton Keynes, renowned for its roundabouts. Oh wait, we meant killer rock band Mallory Knox. They don't have roundabouts.
£20 Musicglue.com

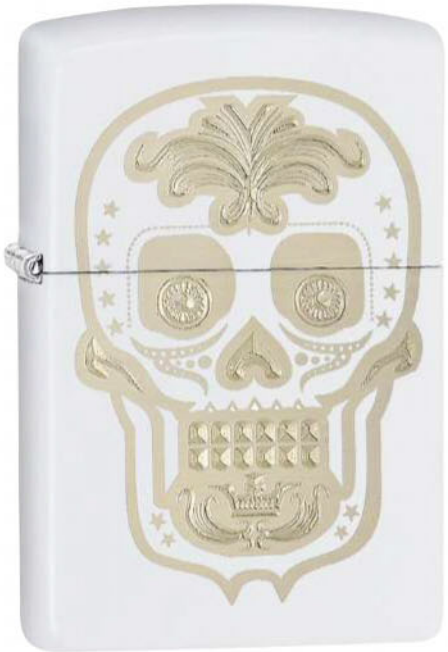
READ ALL ABOUT IT! Aussie pop-punk band in making T-shirt with pizza on it shocker!
$15 (£11.64) Merchnow.com

Live in a flat and can't get a real Direwolf? Then this small plastic one will have to suffice.
£9.99 Emp-online.co.uk

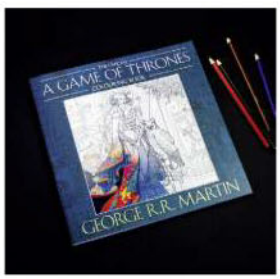
Popstar Zayn Malik got Maiden's T-shirt designer to knock this Slayer-inspired tee up. What good taste he has.
£26.60 Zaynmalikstore.com

Go to the pool in these Mastodon shorts and no fucker will try and steal your sunbed.
£32.99 Emp-online.co.uk

Dunno what the pattern on this Trip Control jumper means, but it looks like some sort of Satanic shit. We like.
£30 Thetripcontrol.bigcartel.com



Stand out from the crowd this festival season with this classic sugar skull lighter design from Zippo! It's probably the most stylish lighter we've ever seen, to be fair. Actually too nice for festivals, but take it anyway and show off a bit.
£27.35 Zippo.co.uk



Colouring-in just got cool as fuck with this GOT book. GIVE US SOME PENCILS NOW!
£9.99 Firebox.com

Rock'n'roll madmen don't get their forearms out in the sun. So, cover up all summer with this.
£24.99 Emp-online.co.uk

Harley Quinn might go around attacking people with this, but we suggest you just buy it and look at it.
£39.99 Forbiddenplanet.com

Wear this to a GN'R show and Axl Rose will still be five hours late. Least you'll look nice.
$16.11 (£12.52) Impericon.com

Want to supersize your phone battery? Then pick up this delicious-looking french fry charger.
Price TBC Amazon.com

Don't ever let anyone tell you you're the plain black Vans, you're the black-and-white fadey glitter Vans.
£55 Vans.co.uk

We *saw* this Pierce The Veil hoodie and loved it. Saw… geddit? GEDDIT?
£32.99 Emp-online.co.uk

Chuck the real BB-8 in a glass of water and he'll malfunction. This ice version should be alright, though.
£6.99 Iwantoneofthose.com

You'll look like you've maybe done a murder in this top, which guarantees everyone bar the police will stay well away from you. Ideal if you're having a moody "leave me alone" day.
£19.99 Emp-online.co.uk

The green on the front of this A7X shirt looks toxic as hell. Better put it on a hot wash before you wear it.
£12.99 Emp-online.co.uk

Wear these Crossfaith sandals with socks and we'll come to your house and beat you with them.
£15 Rocket-exp.com

SEX, BAGS & Rock 'N' Roll

GOING OUT AT ALL THIS SUMMER? THEN YOU'LL NEED ONE OF THESE AWESOME BAGS TO STORE YOUR SHIT...

Not many people know that ADTR stands for All Day Tote-bag Reppin', which is what you'll be doing when you carry this thing about. Beats a 5p Tesco carrier, eh?
£3.99
Grindstore.com

Bright-yellow Eddie bag is mad because somebody took his eyes and mouth and stuck them on a garishly-coloured backpack – not the most metal thing that could happen to someone.
£30.43
Buytra.com

This twenty one pilots bag is so swish we can see your nan trying to steal it. There might be some sherbet lemons in the bottom when she gives it back, if you're lucky.
£13.94
Hottopic.com

This Northlane bag looks like it was stripped straight from the wall of the Aztec zone of hella-old TV show The Crystal Maze. But it's not, so no crystals for anyone, sorry!
£9.99
Impericon.com

Back in the day, people used bags like this AA one to carry around records. But these days people just order those online, so put your sandwiches in it, and maybe an umbrella.
£19.99
Emp-online.co.uk

This Deftones tote bag has a handy list on the front to remind you of all the things you're not allowed to take places. Which is lucky, 'cause we're always forgetting.
£13.70
Deftones.merchdirect.com

DON'T MISS

BLACK PEAKS

THE BRIT ALT.METALLERS ARE ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH COLD NIGHTS ON PROMOTERS' FLOORS, BUT BE PREPARED TO BE BLOWN AWAY WHEN YOU SEE 'EM…

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR. PHOTO: CHRIS CASEY

HEY, WILL! JUST HOW FOOLISH ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL MISS YOUR UPCOMING UK TOUR?

WILL GARDNER (*VOCALS*): "You'd have to be an *idiot* (*laughs*)! No, you're not, but if you're into heavy music, this is going to be a really good tour, because we've got some great UK bands out with us, too. We're really excited, but this whole year has been so crazy, between shows and the record coming out and festivals, we haven't really had the time to take it all in – or blink, really!"

SO, WAS SUPPORTING DEFTONES AT WEMBLEY LAST MONTH THE MOST AMAZING THING EVER?

"It was! But even then we didn't have the time to absorb it – it just sort of happened! We were there at the venue, and before we knew it we were onstage in front of 10,000 people! We even managed to hang out with them without being gibbering idiots! We got *really* stoned with Stef [Carpenter, guitar] and Abe [Cunningham, drums], which was mental."

TALKING OF MENTAL THINGS, HOW OFTEN DO YOUR TOURS DESCEND INTO FARCE?

"Um, most days (*laughs*)? But though we like to party a *lot*, as things go, we're actually pretty organised – we don't tend to misplace members or show up to the wrong venue, which are definitely wins. We did somehow miss a plane we were on time for when we were connecting in Berlin. I'm still not sure how that happened – we got stuck there for nine hours."

> ***"WE GOT REALLY STONED WITH STEF FROM DEFTONES"***
> **WILL GARDNER**

THAT SOUNDS LIKE NO FUN! WHAT IS THE DAFTEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE WHILE BEING ON THE ROAD?

"That definitely was when we played Progfest last year, which was twinned with a sci-fi convention. There were all these people dressed in full-on Star Wars gear, or looking like Master Chief from Halo. We felt a bit left out, so we bought £15's worth of tin foil, wrapped ourselves in that, drank seven bottles of Jägermeister and The Knights Of The Future were born! We then stumbled around, getting the piss taken out of us by sci-fi kids! We were like, 'Fuck you guys, *we're* The Knights Of The Future! *Hail!*' (*laughs*)."

DO THE KNIGHTS OF THE FUTURE HAVE ANY FUN TOUR BUS GAMES, THEN?

"Yeah, we've got this one where we always try to see how much sticky tape we can stick on each other's backs – without anyone noticing – while we're driving. That's a classic and pretty highbrow stuff, right?"

RIGHT. FINALLY, WHERE'S THE NASTIEST PLACE YOU'VE SPENT THE NIGHT?

"We did this two-week toilet tour, and every night we were sleeping on promoters' floors. We were so exhausted and in such a bad state that, by the end of it, there was one night where I had the shits so bad I almost shat myself onstage! After the show, the promoters wanted us to go on to this pub where there had been a party raging all night, and we ended up sleeping either on half-size benches or the cold floor – it wasn't glamorous!"

DATES: Birmingham Asylum July 16, Guildford Boileroom 17, Hull Fruit 21, Stoke Sugarmill 22.

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY *JULY 13*

CARLISLE Basement, Dinosaur Pile-Up, The Sun Days (Brickyard)
CHESTER SikTh (Live Rooms)
MANCHESTER Animals As Leaders, Intervals, Plini (Sound Control)
NOTTINGHAM The Smith Street Band, Apologies, I Have None, Woahnows (Bodega)
YORK Augustines (Fibbers)

THURSDAY *JULY 14*

BIRMINGHAM Animals As Leaders, Intervals, Plini (Rainbow Courtyard)
CARDIFF Basement, Dinosaur Pile-Up, The Sun Days (Globe)
GLASGOW The Smith Street Band, Apologies, I Have None, Woahnows (Audio)
MILTON KEYNES Black Peaks (Craufurd Arms)
SELKIRK Twin Atlantic (Victoria Hall)

FRIDAY *JULY 15*

CARDIFF Animals As Leaders, Intervals, Plini (Globe)
EDINBURGH Twin Atlantic (La Belle Angele)
GLASGOW Vodun (Broadcast)
MANCHESTER The Smith Street Band, Apologies, I Have None, Woahnows (Soup Kitchen)

SATURDAY *JULY 16*

BIRMINGHAM Black Peaks (Asylum)
CARDIFF Raging Speedhorn, Stoneghost (Clwb Ifor Bach)
DUBLIN The Smith Street Band (Fibber Magees)
PLYMOUTH Animals As Leaders, Intervals, Plini (Hub)

SUNDAY *JULY 17*

BRIGHTON The Smith Street Band, Apologies, I Have None, Woahnows (Prince Albert)
GUILDFORD Black Peaks (Boileroom)
LEEDS Vodun (Lending Room)
LIVERPOOL Raging Speedhorn (Arts Club)
LONDON Lagwagon, The King Blues, Sonic Boom Six and more (O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire)
READING Animals As Leaders, Intervals, Plini (Sub 89)

MONDAY *JULY 18*

GLASGOW Raging Speedhorn (O2 ABC2 Glasgow)
LONDON Normandie (Boston Music Rooms)
SOUTHAMPTON Animals As Leaders, Intervals, Plini (Engine Rooms)

TUESDAY *JULY 19*

BRIGHTON Basement, Dinosaur Pile-Up, The Sun Days (Haunt)
LEEDS Raging Speedhorn (Key Club)
LIVERPOOL Area 11 (Arts Club)
MANCHESTER Lagwagon (Academy Club)

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

FOO FIGHTERS – THE ANTHEMS

KERRANG! TV – JULY 14, *4PM*

Who likes anthems? Well, Foo Fighters have them by the bucketload. In fact, we've been doing some calculations, and you would need at least a bazillion buckets to carry all these ones.

BLINK-182 PERFORM LIVE ON GOOD MORNING AMERICA

YOUTUBE.COM

The kings of pop-punk took over the biggest morning TV show in America. Watch the Mark, Matt and Travis show provide everyone with their morning '*woah-oh's*' and kick-start the world's first invisible pogo-stick championship.

50 INSANELY GOOD ROCK ANTHEMS

KERRANG! TV – JULY 17, *10AM*

The folks at Kerrang! TV are being extra-nice this week. So much so, that they've now declared Sunday the Day Of Rock! There's no rest for those who are born to rock, so strap your Weetabix in, get your horns at the ready and prepare to wake your entire neighbourhood up!

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: Iggy And The Stooges

It would seem the punk legends want to make their very own version of Snow White And The Seven Dwarves with their rider, then…

IGGY AND THE STOOGES

IGGY'S DRESSING ROOM:

A clothes rail with hangers
A carpet would be appreciated
A folding metal chair
Kettle or water-heating device
Some fresh ginger, honey, lemons, sharp knife. So we can make ginger, honey and lemon tea.
God knows why
Chinese gunpowder tea. So we can attempt to blow up the dressing room
English language newspaper like the New York Times or Miami Herald
Somebody dressed as Bob Hope doing fantastic Bob Hope impersonations
Seven dwarves dressed up as those dwarves out of that marvellous Walt Disney film about the woman who goes to sleep for a hundred years
A big bucket of ice
Refrigerator containing:
2 litres of good-quality mineral water
6 small bottles of room-temperature mineral water
6 bottle of Pom brand pomegranate juice
10 16oz plastic cups
4 nice wine glasses
2 bottles of smooth, full-bodied, Bordeaux red wine.
A selection of Belgian chocolate
4 large laundered towels
24 large paper napkins
1 box of tissues
1 medium-sized trash can

THE STOOGES' DRESSING ROOM:

1 carton of Rice Dream (Vanilla)
3 cases of 12oz bottles of still mineral water
3 large bottles of good-quality sparkling water
1 litre bottle of distilled water
6 bottles of alcohol-free beer
1 nice bottle of Chablis
1 nice bottle of red wine, like a Bordeaux or Rioja
4 nice wine glasses
12 cans of Coca-Cola
12 cans of assorted sodas (ginger beer, lemonade)
6 bottle of Gatorade – any flavour except 'gator or ades
1 litre of Ocean Spray cranberry juice
1 litre of fresh orange juice
4 cans of sardines
3 baguettes of fresh crusty French bread. Like what they sell in France. Unless you happen to be in England. In which case, soft, stodgy and absolutely nothing like they sell in France
1 package of sliced ham
1 package of sliced turkey
1 package of sliced roast beef
1 bottle of extremely hot pepper sauce
Kettle chips
Cauliflower and broccoli, cut into individual florets and thrown immediately into the garbage. I fucking hate that
Nuts

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: SUM 41, WEMBLEY ARENA, LONDON, 2003

THE SHVPES FRONTMAN MAY HAVE SEEN AN (ULP!) S CLUB 7 SHOW FIRST. BUT IT WAS SUM 41 THAT MADE HIM WANT TO ROCK…

GRIFFIN DICKINSON, SHVPES

"My first gig was actually S Club 7 at Wembley Arena in 2002 and, as you can imagine, it was off the chain. Having said that, I didn't even know what was going on at the time, my parents just bundled us into a car and next thing I knew, S Club were flying out.

"So, the first gig I was actually complicit in attending was Sum 41 at Wembley a year later. Me and my brother [Austin, As Lions vocalist] had been obsessed with All Killer No Filler – which came out on my ninth birthday. We heard Fat Lip and In Too Deep on Kerrang!, and our parents had managed to get us some tickets.

"I remember being so excited on the afternoon of the gig, that I emptied an entire pot of Brylcreem into my hair to get the Deryck Whibley look. My brother and I spent the two hours they played headbanging until our necks seized up – we couldn't move for days afterwards.

"They had the bare minimum in terms of stage-show. It is pretty mental to play Wembley with just a backdrop by today's standards, but because I knew every song, at the time, it just didn't matter, and me and my bro just threw it down to every track. I do remember them asking the crowd what song we wanted them to play next, which I thought was pretty cool. Unfortunately, they didn't hear us screaming Motivation from the stalls at the top of our lungs, probably because they'd already played it. At the end of the gig we lucky enough to meet em and get them all to sign something, which has remained on my wall ever since."

MY VENUE

THE WINDMILL

BRIXTON

22 BLENHEIM GARDENS, LONDON SW2 5BZ

TIM PERRY, *BOOKER*

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE WINDMILL'S HISTORY?

"It was built in 1971 as an estate pub within an estate, in an area full of Irish bars. I took over about 15 years ago and it felt very DIY back then, we didn't go through agents or anything. It was artists that we knew. At points, we got trendy labels wanting their artists here, but we've gone back to our roots. There are a lot of bands in London, the scene is really strong here, and they're part of our history."

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE SHOWS?

"Cancer Bats did six shows in a day across London in the shape of a pentagram… and we were the southern tip! That was a fantastic show at about 4:30pm, people were crowd-surfing everywhere. We do a lot of indie and scuzzy stuff, too, and a personal highlight for me was McLusky playing last year. We've also had grindcore bands blasting out for 90 seconds at a time and bands dressed up as fucked-up shit like horses."

WHAT MAKES THE WINDMILL DIFFERENT TO OTHER VENUES?

"Oh God, how do I put this… I'd say the appearance of the damned place! It looks like a club scout's shack and the inside is like a mad Mexican restaurant gone wrong, with a low ceiling which gives it this atmosphere. There are no visible bouncers, so it's a bit like a gig in a living room with a bar there."

PLUS THERE'S A DOG ON THE ROOF…

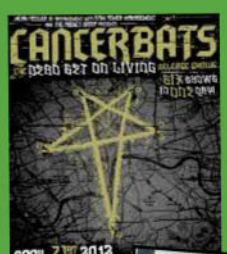
"We're also the only venue in London with a dog on the roof! The famous Rottweiler died last year – he was old – so we have a new German Shepherd called Lucky, who is now our current roofdog!"

WHAT ARE THE BIG CHALLENGES YOU FACE AS A VENUE?

"Midweeks are hard, because people want to go East or Central, so those nights can be difficult. Touring bands can cost around £400 now, so unless it's a full house, that's not going to work. My main beef is the number of sponsored free shows by vodka or trendy beer companies – it reminds me of the Internet making music for free, because now it's almost like people expect gigs for free! We spend so much money on tables, stands, tweaking the PA system, making everything good, then there's the expenses of musicians themselves… and people expect to have it for free. It's like, 'I don't have to buy records any more, so why should I pay money to see those fuckers live?!' I've always been a bit of an anti-guestlist person… it's a fucking fiver!"

HAVE THINGS CHANGED A LOT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THEN?

"Five years ago we were charging £5 a night, and now we mostly do it for £3 because we get more money that way. It's really weird, we've dropped prices and I also think the quality of the music has gone up as well. So, those that expect it for free… it makes it hard for us."



WORDS: AMIT SHARMA

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

BOOKING NOW

3 DOORS DOWN
O2 Academy Bristol November 2, O2 Academy Birmingham 3, Manchester Academy 5, London Eventim Apollo 6. Support: Pop Evil.

65DAYSOFSTATIC
London Islington Assembly Hall November 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15, Sheffield Plug 16, Newcastle University 17, Glasgow Art School 18.

AGAINST THE CURRENT
Bristol Fleece September 21, Glasgow Garage 22, Newcastle Riverside 23, Leeds Stylus 24, Belfast Mandela Hall 26, Dublin Academy 27, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 28, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 30, Birmingham Asylum October 1, Manchester Academy II 2.

ALIEN ANT FARM
Wakefield Warehouse October 18, Edinburgh La Belle Angele 19, Aberdeen Garage 20, Belfast Empire 21, Dublin Voodoo Lounge 22, Preston 53 Degrees 24, Bristol Marble Factory 25, Chester Live Rooms 26, Leamington Spa Assembly 27, Southampton Engine Rooms 28, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 30, London O2 Academy Islington 31, Barnstaple Factory November 2, Reading Sub 89 3, Southend Chinnerys 4, Hull Welly 5, O2 Academy Oxford 6. Support: (hed)p.e., Sumo Cyco, Kalieido.

ALL THEM WITCHES
Bristol Thekla October 2, Manchester Deaf Institute 3, London Scala 4, Brighton Haunt 6, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 7, Glasgow Classic Grand 8, Nottingham Bodega 9.

ALLUSONDRUGS
London Camden Black Heart August 3, Guildford Boileroom 4, Canterbury Lady Luck 5, Hull Humber Street Sesh 6, Southampton Joiners 7, Plymouth Underground 8, Bridgewater Cobblestones 9, Leicester Firebug 10, Brighton Sticky Mike's 11.

ALTER BRIDGE
Manchester Arena November 23, London O2 Arena 24, Nottingham Motorpoint Arena 26, Birmingham Genting Arena 27, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 28, Glasgow SSE Hydro December 1, Leeds First Direct Arena 2. Support: Volbeat, Gojira, Like A Storm.

THE AMITY AFFLICTION
O2 Academy Bristol December 4, O2 Ritz Manchester 5, London Camden Roundhouse 6, O2 ABC Glasgow 8, O2 Institute Birmingham 9, Norwich Waterfront 10. Support: Northlane, Stray From The Path, Wage War.

APOCALYPTICA
Manchester Bridgewater Hall February 27, 2017, Edinburgh Queens Hall 28, London Royal Festival Hall March 1.

ARCH ENEMY
Norwich Waterfront August 21, Sheffield Corporation 22, Cardiff TramShed 23, Southampton Engine Rooms 24. Support: Soilwork.

ARCHITECTS
O2 Institute Birmingham November 11, Manchester Academy 12, O2 ABC Glasgow 13, Nottingham Rock City 15, O2 Academy Bristol 17, London O2 Academy Brixton 18.

ASKING ALEXANDRIA
Southampton Engine Rooms August 15, London Camden KOKO 16. Support: SHVPES.

BAND OF SKULLS
Leeds Stylus October 20, Manchester Albert Hall 21, Newcastle Northumbria University 22, London Camden Roundhouse 26, Southampton Engine Rooms November 17.

BATTLE OF THE BAYS
Line-up: Obituary, Exodus, Prong, King Parrot. London Camden Electric Ballroom October 25, Glasgow Garage 27, Manchester Academy2 28, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 29, Southampton Engine Rooms 30.

BEARTOOTH
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire December 8, Leeds Beckett 9, Glasgow Garage 10, O2 Institute Birmingham 11, O2 Ritz Manchester 12, Southampton Engine Rooms 13, Cardiff TramShed 14, Dublin Academy 16, Belfast Limelight 17. Support: Vanna, Trash Boat.

BESTIVAL
Line-up: Creeper, Fatherson, K.Flay, Milk Teeth, Moose Blood, Pretty Vicious, PUP. Isle Of Wight Robin Hill Country Park September 8 – 11.

BIFFY CLYRO
Glasgow Bellahouston Park August 27. Support: Fall Out Boy, Wolf Alice, Cage The Elephant.

BLACK PEAKS / HECK
Huddersfield Parish September 4, Bristol Fleece 6, London Boston Music Room 7 – 8, Sheffield Plug 9, Edinburgh Electric Circus 10, Aberdeen Cafe Drummonds 11, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 13, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 17, Southampton Talking Heads 18.

BLACK SABBATH
Manchester Arena January 22, 2017, Glasgow SSE Hydro Arena 24, Leeds Arena 26, O2 Arena London 29 and 31, Birmingham Genting Arena February 2 and 4. Support: Rival Sons.

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Slayer, Mastodon, Twisted Sister, Venom, Behemoth, DragonForce, Paradise Lost, Rotting Christ, Anthrax, Gojira, Satyricon, Fear Factory, Symphony X, Metal Allegiance, Corrosion Of Conformity, Unearth, Ghost Bath, Evil Scarecrow, Witchsorrow, Akercocke, Desert Storm and more! Derbyshire Catton Park August 11 – 14.

BLUES PILLS
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms November 1, Glasgow Classic Grand 2, Manchester Club Academy 5, London Camden KOKO 6, Bristol Marble Factory 8.

BORN OF OSIRIS
Leeds Key Club September 11, Glasgow Classic Grand 12, Manchester Sound Control 13, Cardiff Globe 14, London O2 Academy Islington 15. Support: Veil Of Maya, Volumes, Black Crown Initiate.

THE BOUNCING SOULS
Huddersfield Parish August 2, Glasgow Stereo 3, Bristol Exchange 5, London Camden Underworld 6, Kingston Fighting Cocks 7. Support: Pear.

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
Newport Centre November 24, O2 Academy Newcastle 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 30, Manchester Academy December 3 – 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 6, London O2 Academy Brixton 9. Support: Killswitch Engage, Cane Hill.

BUTSERFEST
Line-up: Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, FVK, Creeper, WSTR, Crooks, Ashestoangels, Mallory Knox, Young Guns, As It Is, Moose Blood. Petersfield Queen Elizabeth Country Park September 10.

DAMNATION FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enslaved, Nails, Ne Obliviscaris, Full Of Hell, Oceans Of Slumber. Leeds University Union November 5.

DANCE GAVIN DANCE
O2 Academy2 Oxford November 3, Brighton Haunt 4, O2 Institute3 Birmingham 5, Southampton Engine Rooms 6, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 9, Manchester Sound Control 10, Glasgow Garage 11, Leeds Key Club 12, Cardiff Globe 14, Bristol Fleece 15, London Camden Underworld 16.

DEAD KENNEDYS
O2 Academy Oxford October 12, London O2 Islington Academy 13 – 14.

DEATH SPELLS
Glasgow Broadcast August 9, London O2 Academy2 Islington 10, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 11, Manchester Academy III 12.

DON BROCO
Manchester Gorilla July 24 – 25, Glasgow Oran Mor 26 – 27, Newcastle Riverside 29 – 30, O2 Institute Birmingham 31 – August 1, Leeds Key Club 3 – 4, Bedford Esquires 5 – 6, London O2 Islington Academy 8 – 9, Southampton Engine Rooms 10 – 11, Norwich Open 13 – 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15 – 16.

EMAROSA
London Borderline September 25. Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 26, Manchester Sound Control 27, Glasgow G2 28, O2 Institute3 Birmingham 29.

EMMA BLACKERY
London O2 Academy2 Islington October 23, Manchester Sound Control 24, O2 ABC2

Glasgow 25, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 26.

THE FALL OF TROY
Nottingham Rescue Rooms September 9, Leeds Key Club 10, Glasgow Cathouse 11, Newcastle Think Tank? 13, London Scala 14, Bristol Fleece 15, Manchester Sound Control 16, Birmingham Asylum 17. Support: Tiny Moving Parts.

FIREBALL – FUELLING THE FIRE TOUR
Line-up: Less Than Jake, The Skints, Mariachi El Bronx, Kemuri (3 – 6), The Bennies (8 – 11). O2 Academy Bristol October 3, O2 Academy Sheffield 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, London O2 Academy Brixton 6, O2 Academy Newcastle 8, O2 Academy Glasgow 9, O2 Ritz Manchester 10, O2 Academy Bournemouth 11.

FORT FEST
Line-up: Lonely The Brave, InMe, Young Guns, Black Peaks, Arcane Roots, The Dirty Youth and more! Bedfordshire Thurleigh September 2 – 4.

GOOD CHARLOTTE
London O2 Forum Kentish Town August 22, O2 Academy Glasgow 24, O2 Ritz Manchester 25, O2 Institute Birmingham 27. Support: Big Jesus, Waterparks, ROAM (Birmingham only).

HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS
Glasgow Classic Grand August 9, Manchester Sound Control 10, Bristol Exchange 11, London Camden Dingwalls 12, Norwich Waterfront 13, Southampton Social 14, Swansea Scene 16, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 17, Huddersfield Parish 18, Chester Live Rooms 19. Support: Ashestoangels, Milestones.

ICED EARTH
London Brixton Electric December 6. Support: Ensiferum, Kataklysm, Unearth.

I KILLED THE PROM QUEEN
Glasgow Cathouse August 22, Birmingham Rainbow 23, Plymouth Hub 24, London Camden Dingwalls 25, Southampton Social 26. Support: The Browning, Feed Her To The Sharks, Empires Fade, To Kill Achilles.

IMPERICON NEVER SAY DIE! TOUR
Line-up: Whitechapel, Thy Art Is Murder, Carnifex, Obey The Brave, Fallujah, Make Them Suffer, Polar. London Electric Ballroom November 6, Manchester Club Academy 7, Glasgow Garage 8, Bristol Marble Factory 9.

KATATONIA
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire October 21.

KILLING JOKE
London O2 Academy Brixton November 4.

KREATOR
Manchester Academy February 28, 2017, Dublin Vicar Street March 1, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 2. Support: Sepultura, Soilwork, Aborted.

L7
O2 Ritz Manchester September 10, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 13.

LACUNA COIL
Bristol Marble Factory November 10, London Camden KOKO 11, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 13, Newcastle Riverside 14, Glasgow Garage 15, Manchester Academy 2 16, Southampton 1865 18.

LAGWAGON
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire July 17, Manchester Academy Club 19, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 20.

LONELY THE BRAVE
Brighton Haunt October 3, Southend Chinnerys 4, London Camden Electric Ballroom 6, Bristol Marble Factory 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 10, Glasgow King Tut's 11, O2 Academy2 Leicester 14, Leeds Key Club 15, O2 Academy2 Oxford 18, Hull Welly 19, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 21. Support: Tall Ships.

MESHUGGAH
O2 Academy2 Bristol January 12, 2017, O2 Institute Birmingham 13, Nottingham Rock City 14, O2 ABC Glasgow 15, Belfast Limelight 17, Dublin Academy 10, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 20.

METAL BREW
Line-up: Venom Inc, Diamond Head, Divine Chaos, Incredible Hog, Witchsorrow and more! London Barnet Rugby Football Club July 30.

MINISTRY
Cardiff TramShed August 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 17, O2 Institute Birmingham 18, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, London O2 Forum Kentish Town. Support: DevilDriver.

TWIN ATLANTIC

Newcastle University October 7, Manchester Neighbourhood Festival 8, CardiffY Plas 9, O2 Institute Birmingham 11, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 12, Portsmouth Pyramids 14, Leeds Beckett University 15, Norwich Waterfront 16, Dublin Academy December 10, Belfast Limelight 11, Glasgow Barrowland 13 – 15.

JUST ANNOUNCED

THE AMORETTES / LOVE ZOMBIES
Leeds Key Club September 22, Newcastle Cluny 23, Glasgow King Tut's 24, Edinburgh Electric Circus 25, Manchester Gullivers 26, Bristol Exchange 28, Southampton Joiners 29, London Camden Black Heart 30.

BILLY TALENT
Support added: Young Guns, Say Yes.

DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT
Bristol Colston Hall March 12, 2017, Manchester Academy 13, Glasgow Barrowland 14, O2 Institute Birmingham 16, London Eventim Apollo 17, Nottingham Rock City 18.

FEEDER
O2 ABC Glasgow September 28, Newcastle University October 1, O2 Ritz Manchester 3, O2 Institute Birmingham 4, Norwich UEA 6, Exeter Lemon Grove 7, Leeds Beckett University 9, O2 Bristol Academy 10, London Camden Roundhouse 12, Portsmouth Pyramids 13, Nottingham Rock City 14, Cardiff TramShed 19.

INME
Leeds Key Club October 17, Birmingham Rainbow 18, Newcastle Cluny 19, Glasgow G2 20, Manchester Sound Control 21, London Tufnell Park Dome 22, Bristol Fleece 24, Cardiff Globe 25, Reading Sub 89 26, Southampton Engine Rooms 27, Brighton Patterns 28. Support: Aaron Buchanan And The Cult Classics, Empire.

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK
Support added: Dinosaur Pile-Up, The Xcerts, Lacey.

PAIN
London Camden Underworld October 24.

READING & LEEDS FESTIVAL
Latest addition: Trash Boat.

ROYAL REPUBLIC
Support added: Dinosaur Pile-Up.

SOIL
Southampton Engine Rooms November 7, Brighton Concorde II 8, Bristol Fleece 9, Reading Sub 89 10, Plymouth Hub 11, Barnstaple Factory 12, Cardiff Globe 13, London O2 Academy Islington 15, Norwich Waterfront 16, Manchester Sound Control 17, Sheffield Corporation 18, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 19, Newcastle Riverside 20, Glasgow Cathouse 22, Hull Welly 23, York Fibbers 24, Chester Live Rooms 25, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms. 26. Support: Saliva, Sons Of Texas.

PHOTO: GETTY

MOOSE BLOOD
O2 Institute2 Birmingham October 3, Glasgow Garage 4, O2 Academy2 Sheffield 5, CardiffY Plas 6, London Camden KOKO 7, Manchester Academy II 8. Support: Boston Manor, Turnover, Luca Brasi.

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK
O2 Ritz Manchester August 17, O2 Birmingham Institute2 18, London Camden KOKO 19.

MUNCIE GIRLS
Birmingham Rainbow November 25, Leeds Brudenell Games Room 26, Newcastle Think Tank? 27, Glasgow King Tut's 28, Manchester Sound Control 29, London Camden Underworld 20, Exeter Cavern December 1.

NAILS
Glasgow Cathouse November 4, Bristol Fleece 6, London Camden Underworld 7. Support: Full Of Hell.

NAPOLEON
Bournemouth Anvil August 1, Southampton Joiners 2, Margate West Coast Bar 3, London O2 Academy2 Islington 4, Northampton Black Prince 5, Doncaster Vintage Rock Bar 6, Leeds Key Club 7, Newcastle Central 8, Edinburgh Opium 9, Glasgow Classic Grand 10, Manchester Rebellion 11, Cheltenham Frog & Fiddle 12, Bristol Hatchet Inn 13, Plymouth Underground 14.

NASTY
Manchester Sound Control October 23, Glasgow G2 24, Birmingham Rainbow 25, London Camden Underworld 26. Support: Aversions Crown, Malevolence, Vitja, Sand.

NOTHING BUT THIEVES
O2 Institute Birmingham November 30, Manchester Academy December 1, London O2 Brixton Academy 2. Support: Airways.

OF MICE & MEN
O2 Academy Birmingham September 30, O2 Apollo Manchester October 1, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, O2 Academy Glasgow 5, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 7, Cardiff Great Hall 9.

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
O2 Apollo Manchester November 17, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 18, London Alexandra Palace 19 – 20.

PIERCE THE VEIL
Cardiff Great Hall November 25, O2 Academy Birmingham 26, London O2 Academy Brixton 27, Nottingham Rock City 29, O2 Academy Newcastle 30, Glasgow Barrowland December 1, Manchester Academy 2, Belfast Mandela Hall 4, Dublin Academy 5 – 6. Support: letlive., Creeper.

PUP
Birmingham Rainbow Courtyard August 30, Bristol Exchange September 1, Manchester Sound Control 4, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 5, Nottingham Bodega 7, London Dome Tufnell Park 9.

READING & LEEDS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Biffy Clyro, Fall Out Boy, twenty one pilots, Crossfaith, Eagles Of Death Metal, Lower Than Atlantis, Asking Alexandria, Five Finger Death Punch, Sleeping With Sirens, State Champs, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Creeper, Mastodon, Good Charlotte, Beach Slang, Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls, Tonight Alive, Thrice, Nothing More, SWMRS, Nothing But Thieves, Coheed & Cambria, Skindred, Dillinger Escape Plan, Kvelertak, Milk Teeth, HECK, Modern Baseball, ROAM, Waterparks, Brian Fallon and more! Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 26 – 28.

REAL FRIENDS
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 9, Birmingham Asylum 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Glasgow Sain Luke's 13, Manchester Club Academy 14, Leeds Stylus 15, Bristol Thekla 16, Southampton Engine Rooms 17. Support: Knuckle Puck, With Confidence.

REBELLION FESTIVAL
Line-up: Descendents, Flag, The Dickies, Bouncing Souls, The Dwarves, T.S.O.L, Peter & The Test Tube Babies, CJ Ramone, Off With Their Heads, Membranes, Gnarwolves, TV Smith & Friends, The Vibrators, Pears, Evil Blizzard, Winter Gardens and more! Blackpool August 4 – 7.

RED FANG
Brighton Concorde2 September 26, London Camden KOKO 27, Bristol Bierkeller 28, Leeds Stylus 29, Manchester Academy II 30, O2 Institute2 Birmingham October 2, Glasgow Garage 3, Newcastle Riverside 4, Southampton Engine Rooms 5. Support: Torche, God Damn.

ROB ZOMBIE
London O2 Forum Kentish Town October 17.

SABATON
Dublin Vicar Street January 10 2017, O2 Academy Glasgow 11, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, London O2 Academy Brixton 14. Support: Accept.

THRICE
London Camden Electric Ballroom August 25. Support: Milk Teeth, Greywind.

THE WONDER YEARS
London Tufnell Park Dome July 28, Swansea Sin City 29, Leeds Key Club 30, Glasgow Stereo 31.

YELLOWCARD
O2 Academy Bristol December 11, O2 ABC Glasgow 12, O2 Ritz Manchester 14, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 15, Nottingham Rock City 17, O2 Institute Birmingham 18.

Y NOT FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Hives, Neck Deep, Creeper, Moose Blood, Lonely The Brave, Gnarwolves, HECK and more! Pikehall Derbyshire July 29 – 31.

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GUY ELLERTON

MAIN BAR ACOUSTIC STAGE

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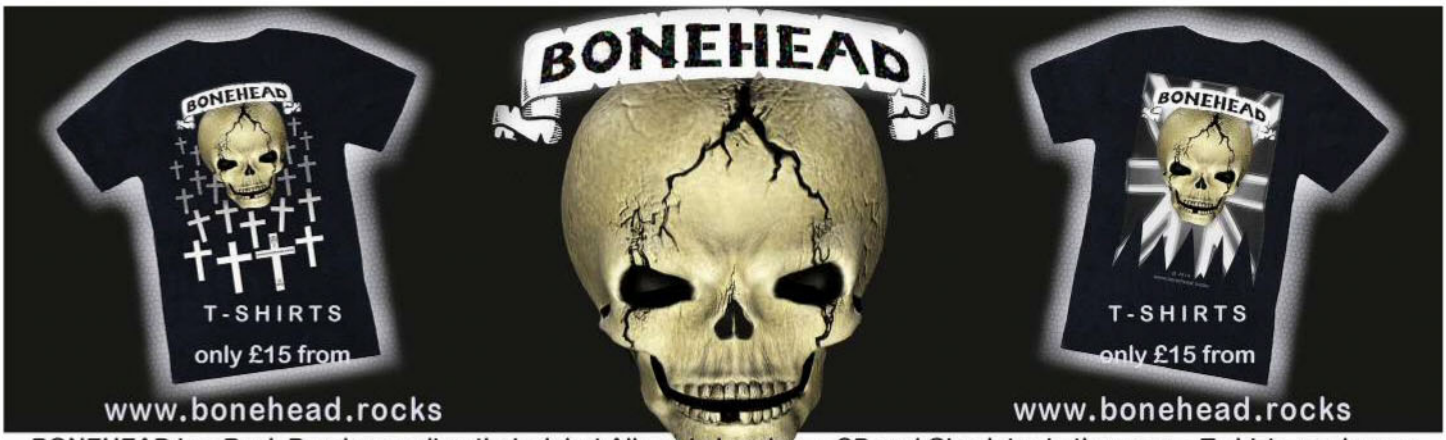

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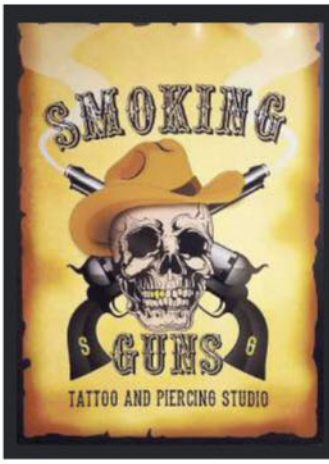

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NEXT WEEK
ON SALE JULY 20

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

FALL OUT BOY!

EDITORIAL

WHAT'S THE MOST BURNT YOU'VE EVER BEEN?

EDITOR: James McMahon *(Went to Cornwall as a kid and woke up one day with enormous blisters. Had to go to hospital. They peeled my back off before my eyes. The doctor slipped on the puss squirting from the sores on my red-raw back…)*
DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner *(Watching Toronto Blue Jays in the blazing sunshine in 2011. Ended up like Dr. Zoidberg)*
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech *(Thailand, 'cause I wouldn't let my mate put suncream on me)*
PRODUCTION EDITOR: Ryan Cooper *(Download 2009. Had a fringe = triangle swollen sunburn)*
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare (*Download 2003. Fell asleep. Holes in my jeans. Knees fucked for a week)*
PICTURE EDITOR: Scarlet Borg *(Blistered shoulders)*
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Ruskell *(Never. The sun gets Nick-burnt)*
NEWS EDITOR: Jennyfer J. Walker *(Any of the many times I burnt my bum on a sunbed)*
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dykzeul *(Never. Always slip slop slap ya deros)*
NEW MUSIC EDITOR/EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/SUB: Emily Carter *(I had to have steroid injections in Oman because the sun literally destroyed my body)*
DESIGNER: Sophie Bland *(I never take off my cardigan so… never)*
LISTINGS EDITOR: James Hingle *(I got sun stroke from a 30-minute bus journey from the airport to the hotel in Greece)*
CONTRIBUTING ED: Katie Parsons *(As red as Dave Grohl's Tenacious D Devil!)*

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THANKS TO: Stevie Chick.

INTERN OF THE WEEK: Nathan Daniel
For all work experience opportunities, check out GoThinkBig.co.uk.

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THE ULTIMATE

ROCKSTAR TEST

FRANK CARTER

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

RIGHT, FRANK – WE GAVE YOU THE SPIRIT OF PUNK KERRANG! AWARD. NOW PROVE YOURSELF…

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO RUN FROM THE POLICE?

"I've actually been arrested. Back in the day, I got caught spraying graffiti on top of a building, which is really stupid, and suddenly four police cars and a dog unit came out of nowhere! They threatened to send the dogs up, so I came down. I got a caution and had to paint over the graffiti. A week later, my mate went and tagged it up because it was primed!"

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN KICKED OUT OF A HOTEL?

"Yeah. I've actually been kicked out of a few. Once was because I was throwing stuff out of the window. I don't think it could have killed anyone… Maybe, actually, as it was the sixth floor. I was trying to parachute drinks from my mini-bar down to my buddies. The other time, I threw a party in my room. Nowadays I know to party in other people's hotel rooms."

WHAT'S THE MOST RANDOM PLACE YOU'VE EVER BEEN RECOGNISED?

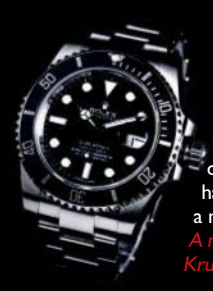
"At Warped Tour at Alexandra Palace, I noticed this guy clocked me with a side-glance as I went into the toilet. I heard him whispering outside the cubicle and then saw fingertips come over the door. I was pretty angry. If you see me in a toilet, leave me the fuck alone!"

You might say that fan was taking the piss…

FAILURES AND F'UPS...

WHAT'S THE WORST STAGE-INVASION YOU'VE EVER INCITED?

"I've had multiple, to be honest. One time in Stoke, years ago, some kid came onstage and tried to get me in a headlock. I panicked and gripped his head, throwing him over my shoulder into the crowd. But while I was doing it, I headbutted something on the stage and ended up covered in blood. I went dizzy and had to go to hospital to get my head glued back together. If someone jumps onstage to take a selfie, I'll snatch their phone and threaten to smash it. But I'm a nice guy…"



WHAT'S THE MOST EXPENSIVE THING YOU'VE EVER BROKEN?

"I almost dropped a Kerrang! Award on the floor the other night! And my Rolex has just stopped working. It might not be particularly rock'n'roll, but my arm went underwater, and it's definitely not waterproof. I'm gonna have to take it to get fixed now – what a nightmare!"

A nightmare indeed. That's real Freddy Krueger shit right there, mate…

LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS...

WHO IS THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON ON YOUR CONTACT LIST?

"I don't even know! Gallows came up at a time when there was a lot of people around, and it's kinda sad because a lot of those people are gone now. We used to hang out at parties with Amy Winehouse and Peaches Geldof…"

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHEQUE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

"Probably for signing Gallows' record deal with Warner Bros. in 2007. We got a million pounds, which sounds like a lot, but 20 per cent goes to management, 40 on tax, whatever's left you have to split five ways, record an album and go on tour. I got to tour the world for five years, though, so I can't complain, really!"

You did, though. Almost constantly…

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

IF YOU COULD HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ANYONE EVER, WHO WOULD IT BE?

"Maybe Adam, of Adam and Eve fame. Why did he have to eat that fuckin' apple, man? He had it all straight-up, everything in the world, and now look at us."

FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, YOU GET HEAPS OF CASH TO PIMP YOUR TOUR BUS. HOW DO YOU SPEND IT?

"I'm gonna level with you, our tour bus is pretty sick. It's not actually a tour bus, it's a van owned by our backline tech. We've got a 40-inch TV in the back – I'm not even joking! But I'd get a fold-out bed, USB ports and maybe a big wardrobe to hang my Gucci suits. By the way, I think wearing a Gucci suit to the Kerrang! Awards and Download automatically guarantees me 100 per cent in this test."

Yeah, go on then, why not?

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

YOU HAVE A SONG CALLED BEAUTIFUL DEATH. WHAT IS A BEAUTIFUL DEATH?

"Any death that isn't violent is a beautiful one, really. I hope I get to live for a long, long time and I hope it doesn't cause my family too much pain. I think the best way to go is going peacefully, surrounded by everybody that I love, being able to tell them exactly what they meant to me."

That is perhaps the nicest answer this test's ever had. So, minus eight per cent from your score…

"I HAD TO GET MY HEAD GLUED BACK TOGETHER AFTER A GIG…"

FRANK CARTER

THE VERDICT

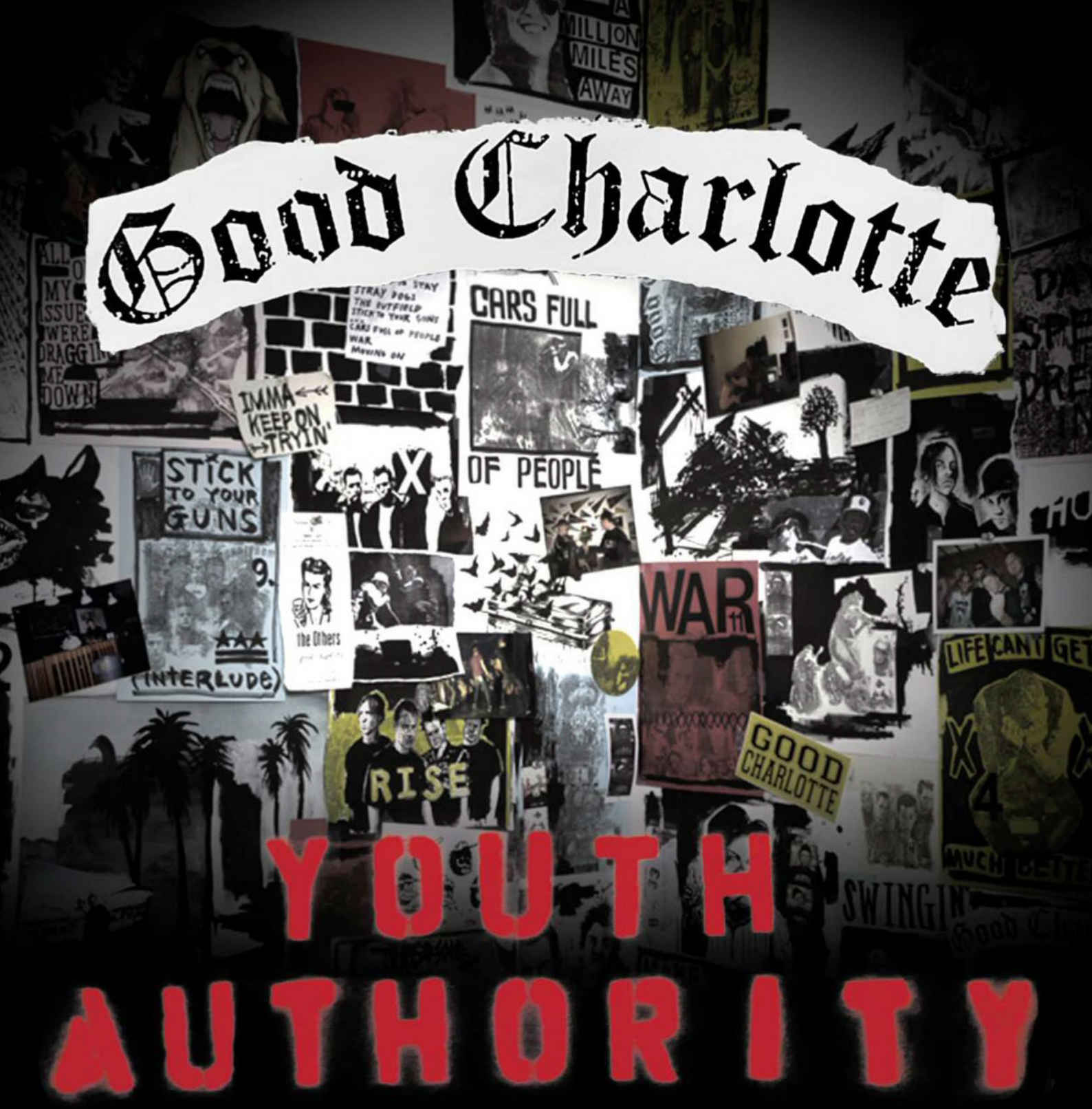
PUNK SINGER, PROFESSIONAL TROUBLEMAKER, NICE BLOKE. WE BLOODY LOVE YOU, FRANK!

SCORE 92%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	**AL JOURGENSEN** MINISTRY		100%
2	**ALICE COOPER**		99%
3	**BEN BRUCE** ASKING ALEXANDRIA		98%
4	**GENE SIMMONS** KISS		93%
5	**FRANK CARTER** FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES		92%
6	**CHAD NICEFIELD** WILSON		92%
7	**MORTIIS**		90%
8	**BERT McCRACKEN** THE USED		86%
9	**BRENDON URIE** PANIC! AT THE DISCO		85%
10	**BRIAN MOLKO** PLACEBO		84%
11	**ASH COSTELLO** NEW YEARS DAY		81%
12	**DENIS STOFF** ASKING ALEXANDRIA		73%
13	**TUOMAS HOLOPAINEN** NIGHTWISH		70%
14	**CHRIS ROBERTSON** BLACK STONE CHERRY		52%

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA



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